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LD0208122188 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Diplomacy—Iran is "obstructing" peace by its rejection of direct talks, which are the "easiest and shortest" route to peace, Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'dun Hammadi stated in a television interview cited by INA.

Linking Iraq's insistence on direct talks with its desire for a "genuine and comprehensive" peace, as stipulated in Clause 4 of Resolution 598, Hammadi affirmed Iraq rejects a temporary truce and will "not yield to any pressures from any party whatsoever, whether exerted by a big or small country or by the Security Council members or others."

Meanwhile, personal envoys of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn conveyed messages to the rulers of Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, and the UAE, according to INA.

The Kuwaiti amir reportedly assured his Iraqi visitor of Kuwait's support for Iraq's desire for direct negotiations.

In Riyadh, a "responsible" Saudi source cited by SPA denied reports Saudi Arabia has been pressuring Iraq to accept a cease-fire, stressing that the Kingdom has "total confidence" in all Iraq's steps to secure a permanent and comprehensive peace.

For Iran's part, Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani told the TEHRAN TIMES Iran will accept direct talks "at the time and place which the UN secretary general considers useful" for the implementation of Resolution 598, TANJUG reported.

Another deputy foreign minister, Mohammad 'Ali Besharati, told AFP in Oman Iran hopes a cease-fire will take effect "within a week or two."

During a visit to Istanbul, Iranian Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri stated that peace talks with Iraq could begin "next week," according to Ankara radio.

He also praised Turkey's "impartiality" and called on Turkey to "use its influence" to help eliminate the "obstacles" created by Iraq to implementing Resolution 598.

Military Situation—Both sides reported continuing clashes in border areas. IRNA claimed several hundred Iraqis were killed or wounded in fighting in northwestern heights, the Mehran area, and in the marshes on the southern front.

An Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio reported an enemy force was repulsed in the sector east of the Tigris River.

In further comment on the recent incursion by the Iranian National Liberation Army, an Iranian General Command Headquarters official cited by Tehran radio stated the Iranian authorities had received "extensive intelligence" about the "plot" and were therefore able to trap the 7,000-strong "hypocrite" forces in the Eslamabad-e Gharb area.

Some 4,800 "hypocrites" were killed, he said and "all" their equipment was destroyed. The equipment reportedly included 120 tanks, 400 personnel carriers, and 1,000 other vehicles.

Iraqi Elections Postponement—The Iraqi authorities announced that National Assembly elections scheduled for August have been postponed for 6 months in view of the current national preoccupation with "current battles and consequent results of victory," INA reported.

Jordan and the West Bank

Jordan's decision to disengage its relationship with the West Bank means the immediate termination of thousands of Jordanian Government jobs held by citizens in the occupied territory, an official Jordanian source told Amman's AL-DUSTUR.

The job losses will affect 5,200 people working for Jordanian Government departments in the West Bank, as well as around 16,000 other Palestinians who will henceforth not receive payment from Amman for work done.

Nevertheless, Jordan does not intend to close the Jordan River bridges, according to a "high-ranking" Jordanian official cited by AL-DUSTUR.

A Jordanian official spokesman also denied "baseless and fabricated" Israeli reports that Jordan has prepared new travel documents to replace the Jordanian passports held by West Bank Arabs, Amman radio noted.

A Jerusalem television report on Jordanian policy asserted that King Husayn is awaiting PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in Amman to reach agreement on future moves.

'Arafat has forbidden PLO spokesmen from commenting on Husayn's 31 July speech, the television added.

Radio Monte Carlo likewise reported the PLO is "biding its time" before declaring an official stand on Husayn's disengagement with the West Bank, noting that the PLO leadership discussed the issue during meetings in Baghdad and established a special committee to study the Jordanian decision.

Bassam Abu Sharif, 'Arafat's adviser, stated in London the Jordanian decision should be followed by the handover of the West Bank and Gaza to UN rule for a referendum on future representation, the Tel Aviv paper MA'ARIV disclosed.

In further Israeli official reaction to Husayn's speech, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir viewed it as a "deathblow" to the existence of the Palestinian people and evidence that the Palestinian issue is "only propaganda," Jerusalem radio reported.

There will be no unified Palestinian people because one part will be struggling to establish a state, while the other part will be Jordanian, Shamir said.

Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin warned in remarks broadcast by IDF radio that Husayn's moves could lead to a "deeper political freeze" that may make the danger of war "more imminent."

Israel

Deportations—Eight Palestinians were deported to Lebanon 1 August after engaging in "instigatory and subversive operations," Jerusalem radio asserted.

The deportees, two from Gaza and six from Judaea and Samaria, were described as "senior activists in terrorist organizations" who led recent violent disturbances in the occupied territories.

On hearing of the expulsion, Jerusalem residents "rioted" downtown and in surrounding areas and were dispersed by security forces using tear gas, Jerusalem television stated.

In Nabulus, two youths were injured when an IDF patrol opened fire on "rioters" throwing bricks and stones, according to IDF radio.

The Lebanese Government will file an official complaint with the UN Security Council protesting the deportation, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon announced.

Syrian Capability—The Syrian Army's "motivation and military capability" make it a "real war threat" in the Golan Heights, the commander of the Northern Command stated in remarks to Labor Party leaders reported by Jerusalem radio.

Syria is "actively preparing" for another war and its air capabilities are "significantly" improved by the MiG-29 aircraft, the commander stressed.

The IDF must maintain "a high level" of capability to make the Syrians realize that "any attempt to attack us" will end in failure, he contended.

Hostages in Lebanon

The United Kingdom should not expect Iran to "take direct action" to free British hostages, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Larijani said in an interview cited by TANJUG.

However, he said Iran and the UK are taking steps to "remove obstacles" to improving mutual relations and Iran could use its "ideological influence" to intervene in the hostage situation.

Anglican Archbishop David Penman said he held "specific talks" in Tehran recently with Iranian leaders and "would not be surprised" if the British hostages were released "before the end of the year," PRESS ASSOCIATION reported.

"Intelligence sources" quoted by an Italian magazine claimed U.S. and Iranian officials held "direct secret contacts" in Beirut on freeing U.S. hostages in exchange for frozen Iranian assets, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon disclosed.

PLO

The United States, in choosing Palestinians to participate in a meeting with officials, should not attempt to differentiate between those who live inside the occupied territories and those who do not, a leading PLO official stated to Cairo's AL-JUMHURIYAH.

He welcomed the Egyptian president's call for peace talks to coincide with U.S. envoy Richard Murphy's visit to the region, the paper added.

Qatar-USSR

Qatar and the USSR cited the wish to contribute to "bolstering international cooperation and entrenching world peace" as the reason for their establishing diplomatic relations, according to a joint communique reported by WAKH.

The diplomatic move will strengthen the existing "friendship and cooperation" between the two countries, the communique added.

Afghanistan

Soviet Involvement—The chief of the Armed Forces General Staff denied "rumors" Soviet troops are preparing for combat operations around Kabul, according to Moscow radio.

The officer said "Afghan troops alone" will put an end to continuing rebel rocket attacks on the city.

A Red Cross official said he could not confirm the release of two Soviet prisoners of war by their mujahidin captors, AFP reported.

The rebel alliance issued a communique stating the two POW's had been released through the Red Cross as a "goodwill gesture," AFP added.

Jalalabad Evacuation—Residents of Jalalabad began evacuating the city after recent rebel rocket attacks, according to resistance sources cited by AFP.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Calls for 'Emergency Meeting' of PNC

JN0208104288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Aug (INA)—The PLO Executive Committee has called on the PNC to hold an emergency meeting within a period not exceeding 1 month.

This came in a statement to INA by a responsible Palestinian source, which said the PLO Executive Committee made this decision in its meeting in Baghdad today.

The source added that during its emergency session the PNC will discuss the means of supporting the uprising in the occupied territories and securing its continuation.

Qaddumi on 'Uprising,' Relations With Jordan

JN0108185088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1740 GMT 1 Aug 88

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Aug (WAKH)—Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, has called on the Arab countries to put the Algiers summit resolutions concerning the Palestinian uprising into effect.

In a report he presented to the PLO Central Council during a session it held in Baghdad today, Abu al-Lutf stressed the need for supporting the uprising and securing means of its continuation until it achieves its aims, represented in ending the occupation and uprooting it from the occupied Palestinian territories.

According to authoritative Palestinian sources, Abu al-Lutf described the Arab interaction with the uprising as "below the level of the great event."

He stressed the need for unleashing mass interaction with the uprising, stressing that Arab mass interaction with the popular uprising is still "locked up and prevented from expressing itself."

Abu al-Lutf sharply criticized the initiative of Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser of the PLO Executive Committee chairman, without mentioning his name. He stressed the need for all political initiatives to be within the framework of the Palestine National Council resolutions.

Abu Sharif had called for direct negotiations with Israel within the framework of an international conference to find a solution to the Palestine question.

Qaddumi stressed the need for these initiatives to respond to and not to conflict with firmly established political principles. He said any personal opinions of Palestinian leaders or officials should serve and comply with national goals.

It is known that a number of PLO Executive Committee members, including Qaddumi, criticized Abu Sharif's views and affirmed they do not express the PLO's viewpoint at all.

Qaddumi also announced the Arab nation is moving toward a stage of awakening and said the signs of this stage are represented in the Arab countries' sense of Arab security.

Qaddumi added that the Iraq-Iran war and Iran's insistence on continuing it threatens the security of the Arab East in particular. This has increased the awareness of both the masses and the rulers in the region. After a while, this awareness has turned into support for fraternal Iraq in its heroic defense of the eastern flank of the Arab nation.

He also said Iraq's decisive victory will reflect positively on the entire Arab region, strengthen factors of revolution and resistance against subsequent dangers, and increase the belief of the hostile forces in the need to abandon their policies against Arab security. He added this victory will besiege the signs of deviation against the Arab nation.

He emphasized the PLO's policy to preserve the distinguished relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples will continue as long as Jordan continues to preserve these brotherly relations.

He added: We must be ready for dialogue with Jordan to resolve the problems that occasionally emerge with a brotherly and responsible spirit. He emphasized that the acquired rights of the Palestinian people in Jordan should be preserved.

Concluding his report, Qaddumi called for translating the struggle of the masses of stones and fires in the occupied territory into a political gesture comprehensible to world public opinion.

He said: We may express our readiness to accept a transitional stage under UN sponsorship for a limited period of time provided the Israeli forces withdraw from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Following this, the international conference is convened on the bases of the UN resolutions and Charter and international legitimacy. The five Security Council permanent member states attend the conference and the PLO participates on an equal footing with all parties to the conflict.

Qaddumi called for more action and concern through the efficient and developed institutions inside and outside the occupied territories. He stressed the need for reorganizing Palestinian conditions in all fields in accordance with the new spirit of the uprising, its creative initiatives, and revolutionary practices.

Meanwhile, the WAKH Baghdad correspondent has learned that the PLO Central Council decided to extend its sessions for 1 day to continue discussing topics on the agenda.

PFLP Warns of Possible Jordanian Moves

JN0208070088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The PLO is still biding its time in declaring its official stand on King Husayn's decision to disengage legal and administrative links between Jordan and the West Bank.

The PLO continued its high-level meetings in Baghdad yesterday to assess the Jordanian decision. So far it has only formed a special committee to follow up developments and to study the consequences of the Jordanian decision. The committee's members, whose names are not yet known, may leave for Amman very soon. [passage omitted]

In a statement released in Damascus the PFLP says the Jordanian decision is a victory for the Palestinian people and the PLO and is one of the results of the uprising which has eliminated Jordanian influence.

The PFLP statement warns against the arbitrary measures and administrative complications to which Jordan may resort. [passage omitted]

Palestinians View Jordanian Decision on Assembly

PM0208093588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Jul 88 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "West Bank Leaders to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: 'Decision Concerns Jordan and Relations Between Two Banks Are Special'"]

[Excerpts] Reactions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to the Jordanian decision to dissolve the House of Representatives, which comprises 60 members, half of them from the occupied West Bank, varied yesterday.

While the majority welcomed the decision and considered it a reformulation of Jordanian-Palestinian relations on a basis emphasizing that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people, some traditional leaders believed the decision represents an end to a special official relationship between Jordan and them that has been maintained for nearly 40 years. [passage omitted]

Dr Sirri Nusaybah, lecturer at Bir Zayt University in the West Bank, commented on the Jordanian step as follows: "The Jordanian House of Representatives has been a formal assembly for the past 20 years because it is not possible to draft legislation for a people who are under occupation. Such legislation cannot be applied in reality."

He added: In practice the dissolution of the House of Representatives has no effect. It is just an attempt to close an old chapter of Jordanian-Palestinian relations and open a new one. We hope the objective will be to implement Arab summit and PNC resolutions.

As for Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, chairman of the League of Arab Journalists in the occupied territories, he hoped the Jordanian measures would not have a negative impact on the special relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples.

He said: I believe the measures taken by Jordan relate to Jordanian internal affairs, which concern Jordan alone. What concerns us in the occupied territories is that the Arab states fulfill their obligations toward the masses of the Palestinian people who are rising up in the occupied territories to eliminate the occupation.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat, professor at Al-Najah University in Nabulus, said: The Jordanian decisions to abolish or dissolve parliament or the Cabinet can be analyzed only when the motives are known. And that depends on two points: Have these measures been taken to put pressure on the Palestinian people and the PLO or to implement the Algiers summit resolutions?

If the intention is to apply pressure, they will fail. But if the objective is to implement the Algiers summit resolutions, this could mean the opening of a new chapter between the PLO and Jordan on the basis of mutual respect and concern for higher Arab interests.

Hanna Sinyurah, chief editor of Jerusalem-based AL-FAJR, said: Right from the beginning the PLO repudiated the development plan and the House of Representatives, though indirectly, since the PLO knew there were political motives. The objective was to belittle PLO representation of the Palestinian people.

The PLO also believed that the problem in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was not to do with improving the Palestinian people's living conditions in the occupied territories. The matter is much deeper than that. The uprising has proved all these facts; it has dotted the i's and crossed the t's. Now that the development plan has been terminated and the House of Representatives has been dissolved, we urge the establishment of Jordanian-Palestinian relations based on Palestinian national principles and the Algiers summit resolutions.

Dr Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian Red Crescent in Gaza, said: With regard to the development plan, Jordan embarked on it without a request from the

Palestinian people and hastened to terminate it without a request from the Palestinian people. In the past it was said the objective of the development plan was to help the Palestinian people stand fast, but so far we have not seen any practical expression of this in reality, especially in the Gaza Strip. The question now is: What made Jordan abandon the development plan before something became embodied in reality? [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Bassam Abu Sharif, information adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat—who is presently on a visit to Abu Dhabi—said historical and social relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples will not break off because of the termination of the Jordanian development plan in the occupied territories.

He also said the PLO, which is leading a battle against the occupation, is capable, with the Palestinian people's support, of confronting the difficult living conditions resulting from the Israeli measures represented by siege and starvation or those which will result from the termination of the Jordanian development plan.

In a statement to journalists in Abu Dhabi, where he arrived yesterday, Abu Sharif said: The struggle for an independent Palestinian state will continue to escalate and the PNC decision to establish a special relationship between the independent Palestinian state and Jordan still stands; its implementation is the Palestinian leadership's responsibility.

Mubarak Call for U.S.-Palestinian Meeting Welcomed

JN0108170088 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 31 Jul 88 p 2

[By Safwat Abu Talib]

[Excerpt] The PLO has welcomed President Husni Mubarak's call for a meeting in Cairo between U.S. Administration representatives and a Palestinian delegation representing Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories.

Dr Nabil Sha'th, head of the PNC Political Committee and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat's adviser for international affairs, said the PLO always believes in the sincerity of President Mubarak's efforts and his serious attempts to attain a comprehensive, lasting, and just peace in the region.

Therefore, he said, the PLO is looking forward to the success of these efforts which coincide with Richard Murphy's visit to the region. The PLO, he added, hopes there will be a real development in the U.S. stand toward the Palestine question.

In his statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, the Palestinian official pointed out the PLO had earlier selected Dr Ibrahim Abu Lughod and Edward Said to meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The meeting took place this summer. Therefore, we welcome any meeting with U.S. and other officials because we believe in the fairness of our stand.

Dr Sha'th added: It seems the Americans have recently been convinced that this is the only framework acceptable to our Palestinian people. Therefore, the PLO is ready to form a Palestinian delegation expressing the Palestinian people's opinion about self-determination and the establishment of an independent state at a UN-sponsored international peace conference. It is natural this delegation should comprise Palestinians from the occupied territories as well as the diaspora.

The Palestinian official warned against any attempt by the U.S. Administration to differentiate between Palestinians in the occupied territory and those outside it. He stressed the Palestinian people in the occupied territories had earlier refused to meet with any U.S. official and said all people in the occupied territories have chosen the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. [passage omitted]

ARAB TIMES Cites 'Arafat PLAYBOY Interview

JN3007185288 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 28-29 Jul 88 p 1

[Text] Washington, July 27, (KUNA)—The PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat has partially endorsed for the first time the views expressed recently in an article by his political adviser Bassam Abu Sharif. 'Arafat made the endorsement in an interview with the PLAYBOY magazine.

"We repeat our offer here, through this interview, in your magazine," 'Arafat says. "Let us work for peace...so that we can build for our children a secure future..."

'Arafat said that the PLO is ready to recognise Israel "only within international legalities."

Asked to clarify this, the PLO leader said: "When I say international legality, I mean the legality of the United Nations' resolutions. The UN is the international body. These various UN resolutions dealing with the Palestine issue cannot be taken separately. They cannot be divided. We accept the resolutions in total—we accept what we like and what we do not like."

He explained: "When it comes to Resolution 181, which created the State of Israel, we do take that resolution and accept it as a unit. Not only the item which calls for the creation of a Jewish state, but also the item which calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state. The Israelis accept only parts of these resolutions. They choose the parts they will accept."

'Arafat also disclosed that, contrary to official U.S. policy, he has been contacted directly and secretly by representatives of several administrations—including Henry Kissinger, former President Carter and UN Ambassador Vernon Walters—for his help in protecting American citizens.

Chad

Opposition Admits Troops on Sudanese Border

LD0108162088 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Confirmation has come from the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution about the presence of its troops on the Sudan-Chad border.

The Democratic Revolutionary Council, a Chadian opposition movement, did not indicate the number of its soldiers who are involved. However, it did point out that one should not read into this any aggressive intention or any danger for a country neighboring on Chad, by implication Sudan, which on its part has said it intends to intercept a 2,000-strong column which has infiltrated into Darfur.

Egypt

Israel's Deportation of Palestinians Condemned

NC0208125488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 2 Aug (MENA)—Egypt has condemned the Israeli occupation authorities' deportation of eight Palestinians from the occupied territories to Lebanon and its decision to arrest a number of Palestinian figures.

A responsible source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry today asserted that these Israeli measures constitute a serious violation of international charters and norms and radically contradict the 1949 Fourth Geneva Agreement, which protects the rights of civilian populations in territories under military occupation.

'Abd al-Majid on Jordan's West Bank Policy

NC0208120688 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has issued a statement on Egypt's stand toward Jordan's decision to sever ties with the West Bank.

The statement says:

Jordan has courageously assumed its responsibility to provide political, material, and moral support to the Palestinian people in their efforts to gain their legitimate rights and to realize their national aspirations.

His Majesty King Husayn stressed, in his decision to sever ties with the West Bank, that this does not mean that Jordan has abandoned its historic role in safeguarding the Palestinian people's rights nor that it has abandoned its vital role in the peace process.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid added:

Egypt is confident that the PLO realizes its national responsibilities toward the Palestinian people, who are suffering from the occupation, and that it gives top priority to the interests of this people and the need to act within the framework of a joint and coordinated Arab effort to reach a just and durable settlement of the Palestinian question.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid stressed that the peace process will be given an impetus if the efforts of all Arabs, foremost the parties directly concerned, are unified, and if a united Arab front, which is mainly based on an effective Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, is maintained which will guarantee the realization of the aspirations of the Palestinian people and the entire Arab nation.

Jordan's Decision on West Bank, Gaza Viewed

NC0208053188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2131 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—The AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper affirms that Jordan's recent decisions to break off its legal and administrative links to the occupied West Bank are considered a step to bolster the efforts being made to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The paper adds that these also are viewed as a response to the Palestinian peoples' legitimate aspirations for a state of their own in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In its Tuesday editorial, the paper notes that these decisions also bolster the Palestinian uprising and strengthen its positive achievements, making it impossible to disregard the PLO in peace talks.

The paper stresses that these decisions are tantamount to a clear message to the world, the U.S. Administration, and the Israeli Government in particular, that the PLO is responsible for the West Bank and that after today there is no other option but the Palestinian option.

The paper explains that these decisions have been welcomed by the Arabs and the Palestinians because they are in line with the Rabat summit resolutions of 1974 and the Fes summit call of 1982 for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank.

The paper finally calls for a UN-sponsored international conference to be attended by all the parties concerned, including the PLO.

Saudi Minister Arrives in Cairo for 3-Day Visit

NC0208130188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1142 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Aug (MENA)—Dr Alwai Darwish Kayyal, Saudi minister of posts, telephones, and telegraph, arrived in Cairo this afternoon at the head of a delegation for a 3-day visit.

He was received by Eng Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport and communications. [passage omitted]

Solidarity Committee Group Leaves for Moscow

NC0208053688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2136 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—An Egyptian Solidarity Committee delegation consisting of Committee Chairman Ahmad Hamrush, and press writer Muhammad Baha' al-Din, member of the Committee's Bureau, left Cairo for Moscow today on a 10-day visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Solidarity Committee.

During this visit the delegation will meet with a number of Supreme Soviet officials who are members of the Soviet Solidarity Committee.

The purpose of these meetings is to strengthen the relations between the two peoples and to get acquainted with the current changes in light of the perestroyka policy being pursued by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. [passage omitted]

Israel Seeks To Spread AIDS in 'Arab Region'

PM0108140588 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Jul 88 p 1

[Mahmud Bakri report: "Three Hundred and Twenty-seven Young Jewish Women To Spread AIDS in Egypt and Arab Region"]

[Text] Confirmed information obtained by AL-SHA'B indicates that 327 young Jewish women infected with AIDS have been assigned to spread AIDS in Egypt and the Arab region.

The information confirms that a team of specialized Israeli psychiatrists—who are familiar with the general political situation—gave instructions to the young women, under the supervision of the director of Israeli intelligence (Mossad), and convinced them that the objective is a national one and as important as preparing for a major military battle against the Arabs.

The doctors said that the women's success in their mission would be a basic start in crushing the Arabs completely in any future military battle because of the deterioration in Arab human resources once the objective is achieved.

The Israeli Mosad's command emphasized Egypt can easily be penetrated on the pretext of exchanging tourist groups, as nothing prevents Israeli tourists from visiting Egypt.

The command pointed out that the main task must not be confined to spreading AIDS among young men in Egyptian society.

The great objective is to work to terrorize Egyptian society from within with a view to spreading a state of fear and worry among its ranks.

And the women's success in their mission would completely destroy the physical and mental abilities of young Egyptian men, who will become unfit for military or scientific training or for any other fields, thus prompting the Egyptian Government to dedicate itself to confronting and eliminating the disease and to completely disregard other national tasks.

The spread of the disease in Egypt and the Arab region would ease the severity of hostility toward Israel.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Education Committee

LD0108220488 [Editorial Report] Tripoli Television Service in Arabic at 1957 GMT on 1 August carries a 91-minute recording of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's meeting with the General People's Committee on Education and Scientific Research. Video reception is good, audio is fair.

Al-Qadhdhafi opens the meeting by suggesting that the drop in the number of students who have passed the final secondary school examinations should be discussed.

He continues that a proper learning environment must be created by improving teacher training, parental involvement, and the role of television in education.

The Libyan leader invites the participants to comment on this year's poor examination results. A participant notes that a committee has been established to investigate the problem. Other participants discuss the problems of truancy, plagiarism, and discipline as well as the issue of outdated curricula.

Al-Qadhdhafi observes that the number of students has increased sharply and concurrently the need for schools, books, and other facilities and resources.

He stresses his conviction that education standards have fallen. He notes that responsibility for the various failings fall into two categories: those of the education committee and those of the people.

He advocates that plagiarism should be harshly punished. Al-Qadhdhafi calls on parents to play a greater role in their children's education and says equal recreational opportunities should be available to female students.

The Libyan leader concludes his remarks by stressing the importance of studying the problems, and he agrees that he will accept the findings of the previously mentioned investigative committee.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Addresses Party 'Salvation Congress'

LD2907171788 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0740 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Speech by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at the Democratic Constitutional Rally "Salvation Congress" in Tunis at the Palace of Congresses—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Honorable guests, brothers, and sisters:

By the grace of God, and along with you, today I open the proceedings of our party in the new era. We want this congress to be a distinctive stage in our national movement's march, in line with the changing of the party to a Democratic Constitutional Rally [DCR]. [passage omitted]

On this occasion, one must praise the great efforts exerted in the various structures at all levels, since, thanks to these efforts, the congress has acquired organizational legitimacy on the basis of dialogue, consultation, and election, in addition to the legitimacy required by the change.

On the basis of this legitimacy, we wanted our congress to be a salvation congress. On this basis, this event draws the attention of all the country's dynamic forces because it consecrates the renewal of the political legitimacy of the DCR and of all those who believe in the responsibility of the common march.

This is because this Rally is an extension of a traditional awakening project and the heir of pioneering reformist movements.

If this party were not characterized by its broad popular grassroots, its capacity to absorb the majority of groups and opinions, and its adoption of the democratic path and mutual consent, it would not have been able to head the country's liberation movement.

Neither would it have succeeded in laying the foundations of the modern state. [applause]

In recent years this party was confronted by evil obstacles. Symptoms of weakness penetrated it, and it lost the original values. That is to say, that the life of the ruling party, its organization and programs, are not restricted solely to it, but go beyond it to all fields of public affairs and life in the country.

Each failure of democracy in it can only have a negative effect on public life. There is no better proof of this than the failure of the 1981 legislative elections.

By losing its origin and source the party had become one of the instruments of subjugation and a means for preserving the status quo. It had gradually lost its historic function.

It also abandoned the initiative and the cult of the personality was substituted, within a restricted circle, for collective leadership. A serious split emerged within the party between the leadership and the grassroots. A paradox occurred between excessive use of slogans and decision-making and a flagging eagerness in implementing them.

The difference between the political discourse and guidelines and the reality and the facts undermined the party's credibility. Democracy was put aside and the effective means of action were removed, and the logic of political calculations and wagers governed the centers of power and individuals, and led to abuses and dissent.

One of the direct results of this inside the party was the dispersal of grassroots, abandonment of the initiative, and the destruction of will. Everyone began waiting for instructions and directives.

The party's adherents were divided into those who resigned themselves to the status quo and maintained it, those who confused wrong with right and supported every decision from above without distinction, and those who lost heart and abandoned ship.

A small group of them, despite their being in the minority, remained faithful and steadfast, trying to save what could be saved despite being outnumbered and despite selfish partisanship, while ignoring the political quality (?of their action).

Another result was the debasement of political action, because the party was hampering the struggles of the democratic forces inside and outside the party when it should have benefited from them and made use of their support.

But the party turned a deaf ear to everything that could enrich it. And as a result, the dialogue between the party and the national elites was broken and its links with the outside world faded.

The disappointment led to the emergence of extremism; violence increased. All means were used, including the spiritual tide in some groups, to confront hegemony and domination.

Consequently, the continuity and the interaction between the party and the rest of the institutions and forces in the country, and thus the institution as a frame of reference, was destroyed.

The natural repercussion of this was that the party lost its radiance, its role decreased, its status as a vanguard declined, and its militant initiatives shrank and retreated before the increasing individual power.

Rule from above also dominated and the crisis of political contradictions became more acute. As a result, the party became a mere apparatus suffering from a crisis of

values and a crisis of conscience because of the spiritual and ideological vacuum. Its role was restricted to carrying out the orders it was given.

This was refelected in the state apparatus itself due to the evil entourage surrounding the former president, for this entourage exploited his old age and the seriousness of his illness by concealing reality from him, competing to flatter him, and embellishing shortcomings with a view to achieving its goals and fulfilling its whims.

The political impasse deteriorated, the implementation of projects was impaired, and some of these projects were diverted from their objectives. The development process was suspended because of dwindling confidence and a lack of clear vision.

Prospects for the future were blocked; misgivings and concern settled over the country's present and its future; Tunisia's image in international circles and among analysts was affected by numerous questions and distortions; and fears for its fate increased.

Subsequently, collective concern also increased, and despite their friendship with Tunisia and their constant eagerness to maintain good relations with us, outside quarters began to adopt cautious attitudes in anticipation of what might happen.

In the face of such a situation, which was threatening to push the country into a labyrinth of divisions and sedition, the only choice left was to assume the trusteeship of the national and historic responsibility in devotion to the dear homeland and to save it in response to the call of duty.

Therefore, from a position of responsibility and in our absolute belief in the sacredness of the Constitution, we embarked on 7 November to accomplish our destiny with the best possible political and cultural formula.

Despite the importance of the 7 November change in itself and the fact that it was a turning point at the level of political action, we did not stop at that, and we did not hesitate even for a moment to adhere to serving the homeland, protecting its sanctity and sovereignty, and defending it, which is a sacred duty of all Tunisians.

We included this commitment in the 7 November declaration which is seen as going beyond the event and as support to and continuation of the political action we undertook. We decided to accomplish the change by declaring a plan which we ourselves willingly and determinedly pledged to implement.

The spontaneous collective mass response and the rallying of all active forces around the plan of a new society demonstrated the plan's popular legitimacy and strengthened legitimacy and constitutionalism in general.

Thus were unleashed a vital impetus and spirited forces which eagerly prepared to realize the plan and firmly establish its orientations in the context of the national reality.

Brothers and sisters, we have committed ourselves to a difficult option because we found ourselves left with the most [word indistinct] legacies and faced by the most horrendous difficulties in all fields.

However, there is no substitute for this option because the democratic option will return self-esteem to the citizen, sovereignty to the people, and to the country its position and weight.

It was natural for the party to follow the process of change and have organic interaction [tafa'ul 'udwi] with the requirements of the new era.

Just as the change liberated the country from its chains, rid it of the nightmare of uncertainty and uneasiness, and returned its confidence, the party has become free of fetters, knots have been untied, and it has witnessed a new start, the pillars of which have become firmly established due to the concord between the party, its structures and bases, and the plan of the new society. [passage omitted]

We wanted the change to return respect to the national [word indistinct] with all its constituents and elements, to return respect to generations of past reformers and strugglers and all those who contributed to Tunisia's occupation of its rightful position among states.

We wanted to achieve national reconciliation and to have the spirit of fraternity and harmony predominate among all citizens, without exception. [passage omitted]

Here I would like to announce our decision to establish an institute for the history of the national movement, which combines a (?survey) of the national movement and a national program for researching the national history.

This institute will be independent, will gather an elite of researchers, and will rescue from oblivion the memoirs of the struggle of our people and its greatest points.

Because of our belief in the importance of this institute, we will give it enough support and resources to enable it to contribute truly to the spirit of pride in our homeland and clearly and unambiguously to the genius of our people as one of greatest characteristics of human civilization.

We are proud of the contributions of former President Habib Bourguiba to the national movement, especially in giving it a truly popular character. He has the honor of being the first president of the Republic.

Whatever the rights or wrongs of what he did or achieved, we cannot deny the service he gave the country; and we stressed that on 7 November. However, all this is left for history and the historians.

The important thing today is to carry out with vision and in a highly civilized spirit the rescue, reform, and establishment process.

The rectification which the party had the audacity to undertake is one of the signs of adjustment to the requirements of historical development. It is an episode in the sequence of events which characterized the history of this party, whose particularity today resides in the fact that the methodological change is becoming political change.

The special characteristic of the change witnessed now is due to the party's remoteness from the process of internal renewal and the lengthy period of stagnation and lassitude which prevailed in it.

It now has an opportunity to regain its original values in struggle and conduct, to revive them, to rehabilitate organized political action, and restore morality to every party action, faring in this matter just as the dynamic and developed parties which keep up with the developments around them.

We are proud of the fact that we gave a living and leading example of civilized conduct, exhibiting the values of our religion and our Arab-Islamic civilization, and the conduct of our prophet, God's prayers and peace be upon him, whose message was to follow noble morals.

Brothers and sisters, democracy is our our choice either inside the Rally or outside it. We are committed to legitimacy in every field, and on every level. Thus, among our very first initiatives, we dealt with the political situation in the country by making a host of decisions aimed at restoring political life to its normal course.

We amended the Constitution to aid rectification and development. We abolished Presidency-for-life and automatic succession. We drafted a law on parties according to which political groups are formed.

We pardoned thousands of prisoners. We enabled exiles to return to the homeland. We rehabilitated the righteous leaders, strugglers, and martyrs according to their contribution in the liberation movement and the edification of a new Tunisia.

We abolished the State Security Court and the office of general procurator. We created the Constitutional Council in order to help us make the laws conform with the Constitution.

We regulated preventive detention and custody, and limited its duration out of concern for the dignity of citizens and to fulfill legal guarantees. We stressed our concern for an incorruptible judiciary, to make it all-embracing and fair.

We gave the judiciary all possible material guarantees so that it can fully undertake its role. We dealt with, and are still reviewing, some laws to make them adequate to the situation. [passage omitted]

Recently we endorsed an international agreement on banning torture and all practices that are humiliating to individuals and human dignity. These actions were in the context of our conviction and true commitment to human rights as a permanent ideological value, and to achieving political openness, which is an essential basis for establishing responsible democracy in the country.

Meanwhile, we have firmly established the country's educational and cultural roots, and reconciled the geographic and political climate. We returned to Islamic religion its due respect, cared for it, raised its beacon, revived its rites, and followed its teachings.

This is the context for the great role which we have allocated to religious education, by setting up a university with complete facilities which has the honor of being named after one of the greatest and worthiest of Islam's beacons in an Arab country [referring to La Zaitouna University].

We have also endeavored to spread the word of religion and its tolerant teachings, while striving to reconcile our educational and cultural heritage, the requirements of the modern age, and the need to keep up with development.

We regard religion as the most important element of our personality; and Islam is the most prominent factor that unites Tunisians. [applause] Under no circumstances can it be a cause of rifts, conflicts, fanaticism, or extremism. Islam is the religion of industry, openness, tolerance, and solidarity. We also believe that the state is the sole protector of Islam. [applause]

In view of the importance of media and its role in any democracy, we introduced the necessary amendments to the journalism law, after consultations with experts and all those concerned. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, we consider the historic change achieved by the country, the spontaneous popular unanimity for it, and the great expectations and confidence in the future which stem from it, the best incentive for the country to continue its march and to face up to the challenges which are basically represented by achieving comprehensive development and consolidation of it.

The achievement of comprehensive development, with its economic and social dimensions, depends on a number of conditions. At the forefront of these conditions is complete economic development.

Objective analysis demands that I mention that since independence our country has achieved a number of economic gains, basically represented by clear improvements in the basic structure, creating a more concentrated and integrated industrial atmosphere, improving the production of the agricultural sector, and creating other important activities, of which we mention in particular tourism and petroleum.

The state has exerted generous efforts to achieve these gains through financial incentives and tax concessions, which complemented the efforts of the various national sectors.

However, for the sake of objectivity, we have to admit that numerous shortcomings and negative aspects accumulated during that period because of the contradictory policies adopted in the fields of production, investment, and exports, as well as the fields of imports, pricing, taxation, financial and fiscal policy, and protection of the internal market.

These aspects were particularly prominent when our country was exposed to the repercussions of the international economic crisis and to difficult weather conditions. What increased the deterioration of the situation was the disturbance and hesitancy in recent years, which was represented by the insistence on implementing numerous projects which were extremely expensive and of little economic and social value.

Thus, the difficulties accumulated to an extent which threatened the stability and social entity of the country, which led to deep anxiety about the future. In order to avoid these dangers, it was necessary to confront the problems and face the facts of the situation without complexes, and to proceed with the introduction of the radical reforms necessary to restore the basic balance in the country and to continue them on permanent correct bases.

In this critical situation we have no alternatives but to increase efficiency in every economic field so that we can continue the march of development and consolidate it in the right direction, in response to the aspirations of national groups.

From the first, we hastened to adopt a number of measures to lay suitable groundwork for comprehensive development. This was done especially by restoring confidence and ratifying numerous incentives, concessions, and encouragements in the various economic sectors.

We also hastened to grant the economic establishment, in its capacity as the primary sector for production and export, the distinguished status to which it is entitled, by adopting an economic policy characterized by flexibility and the willingness to remove obstacles, while leaving the initiative and the activities of the establishment free of unnecessary interference, but holding it responsible for results.

We consider this course of action, which undoubtedly requires long-term application and perseverance and more hard work, the best way to give the country's economy the required effectiveness and necessary competitiveness.

It allows increased creation of permanent jobs, concentration on achieving a regional balance, and at the same time, preservation of internal and external financial stability.

This course of action also requires the satisfaction of minimum conditions, the most important of which is creating a progressive, vital management which understands the importance of its role in activating the economic movement; helping the citizens deal with their affairs; rapid and correct action; and reducing costs.

This is not only an issue of resources, but is an issue of the personal daily behavior of the public servant toward those concerned, and the citizens in general.

Within the framework of this action, the state will continue its leading role, whether through supplying the necessary basic structure and consolidating it through investment in the strategic sectors, or through inciting the banking establishment to participate more in implementing and financing economic projects.

As with any radical reform, the desired results require minimum periods, during which some social pressures and reactions are inevitable, especially in the field of employment.

In appreciation of the importance of the employment issue during this transitional stage, and because this problem has increased this year because of the drought and locusts to which the country has been exposed, we hastened to adopt numerous complementary measures in order to limit the effects of unemployment.

We did this especially for the youth, for whom we consolidated the retraining system for higher education graduates. We also raised allocations for unemployment benefits and the exploitation of water resources projects, and increased agricultural productivity.

We intend to concentrate and consolidate this effort by passing an additional comprehensive program for improving employment. The program will include a number of important projects which will be implemented in the least fortunate regions, especially at the basic level of soil preservation, preparing grazing land, combating desertification, exploiting water resources, and maintaining public equipment and buildings.

All these are projects of clear public interest which combine concentrated employment and the requirements of minimum economic feasibility.

Improving the standard of the individual represents the highest goal of development, because the prosperity of the people consolidates democracy and secures political and social stability, which consolidates confidence and encourages initiative and innovation.

With this the development movement is consolidated, benefiting all the citizens with its fruit in a just way which creates a balanced society based on harmony and the rejection of all manifestations of violence and extremism.

Tunisia today, having entered the phase of balanced political emancipation, is attracted at the same time to free economic exchanges, away from ideological slogans and deceptive promises.

This stems from our eagerness for the credibility of both political and economic speeches. Experience has clearly shown that economic efficiency is the sole guarantee of increased production, for which we strive in our eagerness to achieve social justice and equitable distribution in accordance with our socialist orientation.

Our reform policy has enjoyed great and effective support from sister and friendly countries and international economic institutions. They have expressed through several initiatives their readiness to contribute effectively to securing the necessary financing, on favorable terms, and subsequently to support the national effort, the basic element and fundamental support for development.

The Democratic Constitutional Rally and its members have a special responsibility for implementing this reform and creating suitable conditions to establish complementary programs for employment, in the interest of Tunisia and all Tunisians.

The social program we want to implement is aimed at the evolution of the Tunisian personality in its original form and its modernization and adaptation to this age, with no insularity or banishment, and without splits or fragmentation.

And we support a comprehensive social policy which guarantees for all organizations their independence and freedom in administering their affairs while rejecting extravagant demands and all excesses, and adhering to the supreme objective which is the achievement of a progressive, balanced society. [applause]

Citizenship requires performing one's duty as well as exercising one's rights. It also requires participation, dialogue, solidarity, and restoring respect for collective and voluntary work.

We have created a climate which enables the trade unions to overcome differences and emerge from the crisis from which the working class has long suffered.

We were eager to restore for the General Union of Tunisian Workers its pioneering role in organizing the ranks of workers and defending their rights, in accordance with methods which follow the new view of trade unionist action which is based on negotiations and contractual obligations among all the parties and in consideration of the interests of every party, the public interest, and the country's future.

Inasmuch as we show interest in helping the workers and in their material and moral condition at home, we consistently strive to give the necessary attention to our emigrant workers.

We spare no effort to improve their identity, consolidate their links with our country, and secure the best conditions for their return to this country and their incorporation in the national social and economic life. [applause] [passage omitted]

Brothers, sisters, honorable guests, we seek to establish a balanced and cohesive society. To achieve this we have done much in a short period. We are determined to continue the march along this road unhindered by difficulties, allowing nothing to undermine our resolution.

Our only aim is to bolster the value of the citizen, encourage a national consciousness, and guarantee national reconciliation based on the concensus which changed the government.

We previously explained that the state's responsibility to tackle inherited outstanding and diverse issues is a basic responsibility and we stressed the need to differentiate between issues that only need a decision from above and issues that require other conditions and concerted efforts from all, in addition to a political decision from high office.

You and all citizens have seen the importance of the resolutions we implemented for all walks of life. They are all first steps along the road of a sound and objective rebuilding of Tunisian society, which guarantees its cohesion and its internal force and prepares it to regain its place among the various societies.

Within this framework falls our recent initiative in external relations, when we resumed relations with our brothers, neighbors, and friends, and restored the balance of relations at the Mediterranean, African, Arab, or Islamic levels, and particularly in the Maghreb.

You must have noticed the positive developments and efforts being made with our brothers in the Arab Maghreb to build its edifice and carry out the long-overdue project. [applause]

It is more certain now than ever before that we must give full attention to implementing this fateful goal in view of the objective interest and the pressure of the challenges and groupings we must confront in a united way.

These require us to form a Maghreb community that has no frontiers and believes in a common destiny based on cooperation and integration in accordance with clear and firm bases. [applause]

Building the Maghreb community is a basic condition for the continuing existence of our region and a guarantee of our invincibility if we are to play a complete role in tackling our conditions and solving our Arab nation's issues.

On this occasion, we are honored to emphasize once again our assistance and support for the Palestinian cause and the struggling Palestinian people. In particular, we should acknowledge our pride in and affection for the youth of Palestine, especially the children of the stones, who have raised the heads of Arabs high, revealed the colonialist nature of Israel, and proven their exceptional courage in confronting the worst aggression with the simplest instruments.

We also renew the call for an end to the tragedy of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon and to the waste and misplacement of energies at a time when these are in greatest need in order to assist the uprising and support the Palestinian cause.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our satisfaction with the positive developments in the conflict between Iraq and Iran. We consider Iran's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598 a positive development which should help peace in the Gulf region and provide the best circumstances for [words indistinct] security and for protecting the interests of the countries of the region, a matter which we have always sought through our repeated calls for Iran to follow the Iraqi position and lean toward peace in accordance with the calls of the international community.

We also consider this positive development a result of UN efforts, a matter which gives it credibility and bears witness to the efficiency of its efforts.

Our foreign policy has resumed its role in international forums. Tunisia has achieved prominence and effective participation. That is a policy which relies on clarity, balance, support for all issues of right and justice, and the combating of racial discrimination and segregation such as our brothers in Namibia and South Africa suffer. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, in order that Tunisia may always be able to play this role in the international arena, it has to be strong in its domestic policy. Being among the most active forces in the internal sphere, our Democratic Constitutional Rally is today called upon to resume the initiative in achieving the scheme of democracy which we are now building.

Such a challenge is open to the entire Tunisian community, but the Rally has a great responsibility in confronting it by virtue of being the most important custodian of the heritage of struggle in this country and by virtue of its weight, size, and nature.

For the same reasons, it is the most prominent body responsible for the achievement of the civilizing futuristic scheme. [applause]

The crux of belonging to the Rally is belief in the reformist direction, inculcation with the socialist spirit, and commitment to principles in everything we do and achieve.

Today there is no longer an opportunity for any party to hold power outside a national consensus. Pluralism is no longer a mere possibility, but has become necessary in view of the maturity and consciousness of the Tunisian people.

It is also required by the interests of the country. It has become a right and an achievement which should be consolidated at the level of the structures and laws of the state. [applause]

As it is necessary for any political party that deserves the burden of government to have positions that are ahead of those of the state, our Rally should, today and tomorrow, prove its fitness for this role and its competence in this responsibility with the devotion of our rank and file in serving the interest and prosperity of the country through this vanguard instrument.

The real spirit of struggle can emerge only through competition. Its basic precondition is the existence of competing parties. [applause] For that reason, pluralism is a wager of civilization facing our party.

Consequently, it is necessary to be self-sufficient and to do away with reliance on the administration and its officials to achieve the aims of the struggle. The importance and strength of the Rally should come from within, from the energies and efficiency of its strugglers. [applause]

We want to achieve change in the country and we want our Rally to achieve this. If some people are asking "Where is the change?", either in suspicion or in fear of the new direction, then our answer is that change is a joint daily effort and not a gift that can be given. [applause]

Our people have reached a level of understanding and maturity which allows all their sons and sectors to participate constructively in the management of their affairs.

The Tunisian of today has become an educated, understanding, and mature person. Therefore, everyone should be convinced of the need to participate in implementing the change, and to not sit on the fence waiting for the results of the confrontation between the positive aspects of the present and future and the negative aspects of the past.

We are in control of the situation, and we think about everything we say and do. Our aim is the benefit and prosperity of the country. Since it has been confirmed by what we have done so far that we are moving away firmly and with understanding from all the negative aspects of the past, we would like this congress to be the one that finally resolves all the practices which are incompatible with our Rally and our society.

For this purpose in particular, and in order to mobilize the greatest possible resources and intentions, we want our Rally to be the best framework for the greatest elite of sincere activists, without discrimination between old and new members except according to their efficiency and sincerity.

We want our Rally to be a living organ which is not monopolized by one generation, and to remain always the custodian of reform and a driving force for development, inside and outside the party, and to represent all the political fruits and achievements of the new era.

Because we want our party to be a rally in which all activists gather in harmony, we also want to pose an incentive for reconciliation. One of the main factors within the framework of a national charter characterized by diversity in its components should be consecreation of democracy by its actions, and acting as a moral support for dealing with the country's situation and fulfilling the aspirations of the citizens.

The charter that we seek is a voluntary commitment to a social contract which is agreed upon by all members of the national family in order to invent new formulas aimed at a permanent successful national solidarity.

Our call for a national charter and moral commitment to it stems from our commitment to the safety and security of the country and is dictated by the current and expected real difficulties of the country.

At the forefront of these difficulties is the balance between the possible and the desired, the existing and the sought after. They include the scarcity of resources, harshness of nature, and the remnants of the crisis of values and confidence, because what has accumulated over the years cannot be removed in a day.

They also include the presence of our country in an international atmosphere characterized by blocs which take nothing into consideration but the interests of their members.

All these premises require the continuation of change through gathering and consolidating efforts. Moreover they dictate the use of political realism in order to avoid rashness or extemporizing and the renounciation of all forms of one-upmanship whatever its aims and reasons might be.

The change is continuing without any cover-up or fabrication. It is a calm quiet change, but it is irreversible.

Our country no longer stands for superficiality. We in the Rally want to reconsider the meaning of party commitment so as to make a critical, aware, and responsible commitment and not a commitment of submission and passivity.

We also want our base to be the initiative which pushes the leadership closer to perfection. We believe in the need for the Rally to be in fact a school for morals and conduct, the great school where the individual will acquire the ability to fight desire and where he will learn the self-denial that puts the homeland before all else.

The just Rally that had the historic courage to choose democracy has the duty to carry out this trust, look after it, and to protect against deviation. It is our duty to overcome all the old complexes in order to make the safeguarding of democracy the responsibility of everyone according to his (?place) and role in society.

In the framework of this conference, held under the motto of salvation, we want to establish a new political practice, based on new political thinking, which assumes good values in political action and deals with all the parties and intellectual groups with logic and dialogue.

Ladies and gentlemen, as I conclude I am pleased to wish the brother conferees complete success in their proceedings and in dealing with the situation of the Rally and the prospects of its future, so you will draw a clear line for the future of this party and give it again its leading role on the basis of the new orientations which have been brought about by the change. I hope you will put the interest of the homeland above any other consideration.

I want our honorable guests, brothers, and friends to see for themselves, through following the proceedings of this conference, the seriousness of the changes and our sincere determination for change.

These proceedings are a purely Tunisian action, in design and in implementation, stemming from a deep nationalist feeling, dealing with purely Tunisian issues. [applause]

We wish our guests a good stay in this peaceful country. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [singing of the national anthem]

Bahrain

Iraq's Ramadan Conveys Message From Saddam Husayn

JN0208083088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Manama, 2 Aug (WAKH)—Iraqi RCC member and First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan arrived in Manama this morning on a visit to Bahrain. He is carrying a message to His Highness Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and Iraqi Charges d'affaires in Bahrain Sami 'Abd Husayn received Ramadan upon arrival.

Kuwait

Chinese Official on Steps To Halt Silkworm Sales

JN0108143488 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 31 Jul 88 p 4

[Text] Beijing, July 30: A highranking Chinese official has said that China has taken strict measures to prevent its Silkworm missiles from being sold from any other source possessing them.

China has also stopped selling the missiles, he added.

The Assistant Foreign Minister of China Yang Fuchang described his country's relations with Kuwait as "an example of bilateral international relations." He was talking to a Kuwaiti press delegation visiting China.

On the issue of the Chinese Silkworm missiles being used against Kuwait, the official regretted the incident and added that China had expressed its sympathy with Kuwait.

The Chinese government had always been against the expansion of the Gulf war so as not to reach a peaceful country like Kuwait, he said.

The minister said that the Chinese government followed and is still following the Silkworm missiles issue with due concern and attention and had sent a special envoy to Kuwait last July and found a great deal of understanding from the Kuwaiti leadership to the Chinese position.

Fuchang disclosed that the Kuwait-Chinese relations were good even prior to the official establishment of diplomatic ties and that HH the Amir visited China in the early 70s when he was the Crown Prince.

Thousands of Chinese engineers are working in Kuwait and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development has established several projects in China, he said.

The official speaking on bilateral relations between Kuwait and China said these are quickly improving and called on Gulf tourists and investors to visit China as the foreign investment law provided lots of incentives and opportunities to foreign investors.

The Chinese official informed a group of Kuwaiti reporters visiting China that his country supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General to implement the Security Council Resolution 598 concerning the Iraq-Iran war and added that his country looks to this resolution as an expression of a comprehensive international wish as the best formula to solving the conflict.

On China's relations with the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states, he said that his country's relations are good and China is always willing to improve and strengthen these ties.

He added that China maintains diplomatic relations with some GCC states and good commercial relations with others.

He described the Iraq-Iran war as regrettable, especially as it was between two Muslim neighbours. He stressed that China took a neutral stand and had exerted a lot of effort to bring about a peaceful settlement.

China sent a special envoy last summer to Tehran to try and convince Iran to accept the UN Resolution 598 as China had taken an active part in formulating this resolution.

He refuted as lies and fabrications the news that China is planning an armament co-operation with Iran and Israel and stressed that facts will prove otherwise.

Additionally, he pointed out that China does not maintain any diplomatic relations with Israel. He expressed total support for the Palestinian uprising and cited the Chinese media's particular attention to this issue.

Amir Receives Iraqi Envoy, Message From President

JN0108132288 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 1, INA—Amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah today received here President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) and Iraqi first deputy premier. During the audience, Mr. Ramadan conveyed to the amir of Kuwait a message from President Husayn.

In the message, President Husayn expressed his warm greetings to the amir of Kuwait and his appreciation of the advanced level of exemplary relations between Iraq and Kuwait.

Iraq's keenness over and seriousness to expand cooperation and deepen brotherly ties were reiterated and the courageous stand maintained by Kuwait vis-a-vis Iranian hostile acts was lauded in the message.

Mr. Ramadan informed the amir of Kuwait of Iraq's firm stand to establish peace, its serious and sincere efforts over years of the war, its response to all peace endeavours and resolutions and approval of the Security Council Resolution No. 598 since its adoption.

The amir of Kuwait was assured of Iraq's unshakable stand toward establishing lasting and comprehensive peace and starting direct negotiations.

The amir of Kuwait requested Mr Ramadan to convey his regards to President Saddam Husayn. He also congratulated Iraq once again on the victories realized by Iraqis, lauded Iraq's peaceful stand and backed Iraq's stance to have just, comprehensive and lasting peace.

Shaykh Jabir affirmed Kuwait's firm stand and its support for Iraq in its defence of sovereignty and of the Arab nation.

The amir of Kuwait also expressed his country's appreciation of developed relations with Iraq and its seriousness to consolidate and deepen them in service of the two brotherly countries and the Arab nation.

The audience was attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy premier and foreign minister, Messrs. Nizar Hamdun and Sulayman Majid al-Shahin respectively Iraqi and Kuwait foreign undersecretaries and the Iraqi ambasador to Kuwait.

Mr. Ramadan, personal envoy of President Husayn to the amir of Kuwait, arrived here earlier today.

Oman

Iran's Besharati Visits, Talks on Cease-Fire

NC0108112588 Paris AFP in English 1057 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Muscat, Aug 1 (AFP)—Iran hopes to reach a cease-fire in the Gulf war "within a week or two," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati said in Oman on Monday.

Mr Besharati was speaking in Salalah, some 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) south of Muscat, on the second day of a visit to deliver a message from his president, 'Ali Khamene'i, to Omani ruler Sultan Qabus on efforts to implement peace in the Gulf.

"We are doing our best to reach a cease-fire. We hope it will take place within a week or two," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY meanwhile reported that Sa'dun Shakir, member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council, arrived Monday in Doha for talks on the Gulf war. Mr Shakir was to tour other Gulf states, the agency said. [passage omitted]

Meets With Sultan

LD0208084988 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug 2, IRNA—Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman has lauded the Islamic Republic for its acceptance of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for an immediate end to the 8-year old Iraq-Iran war.

"History will register your brave and wise measure (in accepting the resolution)," Sultan Qabus told Iran's Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Muhammad Besharati who met with the Omani head of state in Muscat Monday to hand him a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Thanking Besharati for the message, Sultan Qabus stressed that the time was ripe for the whole world to cooperate with Islamic Iran "particularly now that you have stripped them of any pretext."

He said Oman attached great respect to Iran's endorsement of the U.N. ceasefire plan, a move which the Omani head of state described as a "surprise and at the same time joyous reality."

Besharati, who is heading a delegation to some littoral Persian Gulf states, told Sultan Qabus that despite Tehran's good-will in approving of the Resolution 598, the Baghdad regime had repeated the same mistake it had made eight years ago when it invaded Iran.

Iraq's renewed invasion of Iran, the acting foreign minister said, prompted the Islamic Republic officials to mobilize the masses for holy defense and as a result, he said, one million volunteer people rushed to the war fronts at once "to give another crushing response to Baghdad's fresh aggressions."

Besharati also urged close cooperation between Oman and the Islamic Republic in providing security for the Persian Gulf and particularly for the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Welcoming the idea which he said would serve the cause of security and regional stability, Sultan Qabus also expressed hope that foreign navies would soon withdraw from the Persian Gulf.

Iraqi Envoy Conveys Message to Sultan Qabus

JN0108194888 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Sa'dun Shakir, President Saddam Husayn's envoy and RCC member, has conveyed a message from his excellency the president to Sultan Qabus of Oman. The message deals with the latest developments in the region and the peace efforts being exerted to end the Iraq-Iran war.

The OMANI NEWS AGENCY said President Saddam Husayn's envoy conveyed the message when Sultan Qabus received him in Salah today. Sa'dun Shakir arrived in Salah from Doha earlier today.

Minister on 'Significant' UK Role in Region

JN3107071788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2056 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Salalah, 30 Jul (WAKH)—Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, has said the Omani-British talks which took place here today dealt with the latest developments in the region.

He also referred to Iran's acceptance of the UN Security Council resolution to end the fighting that has been going on for 8 years between Iraq and Iran.

Addressing a news conference here today, Al-'Alawi expressed hope that the Iranian announcement would initiate peace between the two countries in the interest of the region and their peoples.

Al-'Alawi explained that the British Government is playing a significant role in the region's security.

British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who left Salalah earlier today, had met with His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman.

Qatar

Diplomatic Relations Established With USSR

JN0108121588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1137 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Doha, 1 Aug (WAKH)—The State of Qatar and the USSR have decided to establish diplomatic relations on the ambassadorial level.

A joint communique was issued in Doha and Moscow saying that out of the desire of the State of Qatar and the USSR to strengthen friendship and cooperation between them, they have decided to establish diplomatic relations as of the date of signing this joint communique and to exchange diplomatic representatives at the ambassadorial level.

The two sides expressed in the communique—carried by QNA—their confidence that the establishment of diplomatic relations between the State of Qatar and the USSR and the exchange of ambassadors will bolster international cooperation and entrench world peace.

The communique adds that the State of Qatar and the USSR emphasize their readiness to establish bilateral relations in accordance with the UN Charter and on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence, equality, mutual respect of each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives PDRY Envoy, Message

LD0108190688 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1710 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Aden, 1 Aug (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz sent a message to His Excellency President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium.

The message deals with relations between the two brotherly countries, their consolidation and development, as well as the current situation in the Arab arena.

The message was handed over by the Kingdom's ambassador to Aden, Muwaffaq Abdallah al-Dulayqan [name as received], when he was received by President al-'Attas today.

Source Denies Reports of Pressure on Iraq

LD0108141988 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1344 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Riyadh, 1 Aug (SPA)—A responsible source has made a statement to SPA in which he said:

Media reports over the past 3 days have suggested that in view of its concern in assisting the United Nations secretary general in his task of bringing about peace in the Arab Gulf region, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has exerted pressures on the Iraqi Government to persuade it to accept a cease-fire.

The source added: Suggestions relating to the exertion of pressures are untrue. The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in pointing out this fact, would like to stress its total confidence in all the steps and measures undertaken by the Iraqi Government to further its interest and plans aimed at the establishing true, permanent, and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran.

United Arab Emirates

Envoy Says Iran 'Ready' for Direct Negotiations

NC3007172388 Paris AFP in English 1719 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 30 (AFP)—Iran's Acting Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati said here Saturday his country stands ready to negotiate directly with Iraq.

"I am now saying that for direct negotiations there is no problem and we are ready for that," Mr. Besharati told a news conference here.

Iraq had been demanding direct negotiations as a precursor to implementation of a cease-fire in the Gulf war.

Mr. Besharati is on a tour of several Arab Gulf states and had met earlier with United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Discusses 598 With Al Nuhayyan

LD3007182188 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA—Ruler of United Arab Emirates (UAE) Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan lauded Iran's acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 terming it as 'a wise move'.

The UAE ruler made the remark in a meeting with Iran's acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati in Al-'Ayn town Saturday afternoon.

Besharati presented a message to Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Iran's President Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i on regional developments as well as Iran's stance towards Resolution 598.

The two sides studied the latest political developments of the region, following Iran's acceptance of the Security Council Resolution (July 18).

The Iranian official said acceptance of the resolution by Iran is not a tactical measure.

Islamic Iran, he stressed, is for a stable peace and complete security in the region.

The Iraqi regime immediately after the historical Iranian declaration unveiled its aggressive nature once again and invaded Iran, he said adding that Iran's Muslim combatants inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy forcing it to retreat, he said.

Speaks on Hostage Release

NC3007193488 Paris AFP in English 1923 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 30 (AFP)—Iran's Acting Foreign Minister Mohammed 'Ali Besharati said Saturday his country was willing to "do its best" to secure the release of Western hostages in Lebanon although Iran's help had not been solicited.

Tehran would not hesitate if asked for help by other countries, he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE at the end of a news conference here.

"Anytime the foreign countries have asked us to help them to release innocent people we have agreed and made some successes," he said.

Asked what effect Iran's expected peace talks with Iraq would have on the hostages, Mr. Besharati said:

"We do not have relations with every Lebanese group, but in general we can use our influence in Lebanon for the release of the hostages."

The Iranian official is on a tour of several Arab Gulf states and had said earlier his country was ready for direct negotiations with Iraq ahead of a Gulf war cease-fire.

RCC Member Shakir Delivers Message to President

JN0208091588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Al-Jurf, 2 Aug (WAKH)—UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a verbal message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

An authoritative source announced that the message deals with the Iran-Iraq war developments and the most recent developments in the region.

It also deals with peace efforts to end the war and implement Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for a permanent, just, and comprehensive settlement of the dispute between the two countries after Iran announces its acceptance of this resolution.

RCC member Sa'dun Shakir, the Iraqi president's envoy, delivered the messsage during his reception by the UAE president in Abu Dhabi this morning.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Chairs First Meeting of New Government

JN0108144688 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, chaired the first meeting of the new government after being sworn in this morning.

After the president opened the meeting, he congratulated the prime minister and Cabinet ministers on their trustworthiness and their pursuing building and development in light of the new changes after our country achieved notable success in democracy that found expression in the Consultative Council elections. [passage omitted]

The brother president outlined the lines and key goals that must guide government work and urged it to make every effort toward achievement in services, production, building the state of law and order, enhancing the central government powers, and strengthening and developing local adminsitration.

The president specified the main features that must figure in the government's policy statement to be submitted to the Consultative Council to mirror the spirit of the new changes, reflect popular aspirations, and meet the needs of the citizens.

The statement must also be responsible and realistic enough to be achievable in the context of the third 5-year development plan.

The statement must focus on streamlining the bureaucratic and judicial systems and upgrading the Justice Ministry in keeping with the principle that justice is the underpinning of government. [passage omitted]

The brother president stressed that the government should institute measures and controls to curb the importation of luxury consumer goods and promote national industries and handicrafts by giving access to facilitations, loans, and expertise as well as the studies required for their establishment and development.

Controls must also be instituted to buffer them against competition from foreign goods that should lead to a strong national economy and self-sufficiency. [passage omitted]

The president stressed the importance of developing the Interior Ministry and exploiting the important step made by our country through introducing local administration and making the governors directly answerable to the ministry. This is to avoid duplication and to ensure the application of law and shari'a and the supremacy of law and order.

The president said the government should work to develop our country's foreign relations to advance positive cooperation and integration on the Arab, Islamic, and international fronts.

He emphasized the need for our country to assert itself in all international forums in the interest of just, humanitarian causes and global peace and security causes in the spirit of positive neutrality and nonalignment which has proved a safety valve.

The president, the secretary general of the General People's Congress, urged the government to keep up the contacts with brother officials of the southern part of the homeland with a view to reviving Yemeni union through coordination of joint unionist activities according to pacts made by the two halves [of Yemen]. [passage omitted]

Sa'dun Hammadi Interviewed on Talks With Iran

JN0208085088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Aug 88

["Text" of interview with Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and minister of state for foreign affairs, by an unidentified announcer "transmitted over Baghdad television last night"—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Gentlemen: May the peace and blessings of God be upon you. It pleases us very much to meet with Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and minister of state for foreign affairs, to explain to us many matters relating to UN Security Council Resolution 598 on the Iraq-Iran war.

First, it pleases us to know your opinion on the reasons that made Iran accept Resolution 598.

[Hammadi] I believe like many others, who are the majority, that Iran has accepted Resolution 598 for primarily internal reasons relating to its military position. Iran has only accepted the resolution after Al-Faw, Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh], and the other battles.

For some time now and whenever I was asked by Western newsmen about the situation in Iran, I always said the situation in Iran was deteriorating on all the military, political, economic, and moral levels.

This deterioration had to reach what may be termed the point of breakdown. So when they asked me as to when this point would be reached, I told them: I do not know, but the day would come when Iran would not be in a position to continue the war any more. Iran has reached this point.

What is noteworthy, however, is that Iran reached this decision not just because it can no longer win the war or that it lost the war, but also because of another reason.

I believe that the Iranian regime has realized that it is being threatened. It is not just that victory over Iraq has become impossible, but the regime inside Iran itself is threatened. Therefore, it has accepted Resolution 598 for practical reasons.

[Announcer] Why is Iraq demanding observance of the sequence of the provisions of Resolution 598?

[Hammadi] If we go back to the resolution, we will find that it is based on the sequence idea. The first operative paragraph of Resolution 598 says the Security Council demands as a first step that there shall be a cease-fire, then withdrawal and so forth.

Therefore, the resolution envisions right from the beginning that it will be carried out step by step and that the first steps are cease-fire and withdrawal. The other logical thing that necessitates the implementation of the resolution in this manner is that the steps follow one another logically.

For example, the paragraph on the exchange of POW's does not precede the paragraph on the cease-fire, and it does not speak about withdrawal before the cease-fire. The resolution called first for a cease-fire, which is a logical starting point. It then spoke about withdrawal to the international borders and the exchange of POW's.

The fourth point says that both sides shall hold negotiations with the secretary general's assistance in order to solve all pending issues and to reach comprehensive peace.

The sixth point spoke about the possibility of forming a neutral committee to examine responsibility for the war. The seventh point spoke about the reconstruction of both countries with international assistance. The eighth point spoke about the question of security in the Arabian Gulf region.

The sequence of the articles of the resolution is logical. If we were to change that sequence and replace one article with another then the sequence will not be logical when the resolution is implemented. It is not conceivable and it is not expected that a resolution of such importance is drafted without attention to its logical sequence.

The present sequence of the resolution is not arbitrary and did not come about without closely examining what should precede what. Thus, for instance, the Iranians were talking and are still talking about the cease-fire and the implementation of Article Six, which deals with determining responsibility for starting the war, whereas according to the sequence of the resolution the fourth article requires a complete end to the war and requires the two sides to hold negotiations to resolve all outstanding issues between them, and when all that is done the possibility of the sixth article, the possibility of forming a committee to examine responsibility for the war, is discussed.

Why did the resolution do that? It did that so that the issue [of responsibility for the war] is examined after all outstanding issues between the two countries have been resolved and a genuine peace documented by a peace treaty between the two sides is established, so that neither side will have any outstanding issue which it can use as a threat or to exercise pressure on the committee that will examine responsibility for the war.

This is logical: The committee that investigates responsibility for the war must carry out its investigation in a neutral atmosphere, in which no side has any means to

exert pressure on the committee to make it biased one way or another. At the same time the Iranians want this clause implemented before any other.

This was clearly demonstrated last year when Iranian President Khamene'i went to the United Nations and met with the UN secretary general. The secretary general asked the Iranian president if Iran is ready to sign an undertaking that it will abide by all results achieved by the investigation committee after it concludes its business.

The Iranian president said that if the committee does not condemn Iraq, then it is not neutral, and hence Iran will not abide by the judgment of a biased committee.

The UN secretary general conveyed this to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council during an official meeting. This is documented in the UN records.

For this reason, when we say the resolution must be implemented according to the sequence of its clauses, we are talking about something logical. We also talk within the context of the resolution's first clause. We also say that the committee should begin its work after implementation of the fourth clause—that is, after the achievement of a comprehensive and lasting peace.

[Announcer] Your Excellency, are you confident about Iran's good intentions in achieving peace after it accepted Resolution 598?

[Hammadi] I said this before, and I am certain about it—Iran accepted Resolution 598 for practical internal reasons and not for reasons connected to principles. Iran does not believe in peace. They say there are more important matters than peace.

For example, they talk about justice and so forth as being more important than peace. The Iranian regime talks about exporting the revolution as a basic and strategic objective for the regime. This was affirmed in legislation ratified by the Iranian Majlis before they accepted the resolution.

This is in principle. The second thing is that we say this and we are confident in what we say. I believe that what we say is indisputable between any two persons in the world, namely that Iran has been and is still being ruled by one person, Khomeyni.

He is the man who has the last say regardless of the institutions in Iran. This man has spoken too much since the issuance of the resolution about his opinion, wishes, and stand toward the adoption of the resolution. This is known.

There is also Khomeyni's letter which was broadcast after the issuance of the resolution and what he said about this resolution. We, as a country that is basically concerned with the contents of this letter and statement, and due to the fact that we assume our responsibility, cannot but take this letter and statement into consideration because they were made after the adoption of the resolution by the man who rules Iran.

The third thing which added to our doubts is why Iran rejects direct negotiations. Iran's rejection of direct negotiations has increased our doubts because direct negotiations are the easiest and shortest way to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, taking into consideration that article four of the resolution stipulates the achievement of a genuine and comprehensive peace between the two sides.

[Announcer] Why are we asking for direct negotiations in New York now?

[Hammadi] This fourth clause cannot be implemented except through direct negotiations between the two conflicting sides. To answer your question I would like to say first that we are not against the UN secretary general's efforts and we appreciate the UN Security Council's efforts to achieve peace.

However, we believe peace negotiations should have a sound beginning. They must be put on the right course. They are like a train which, if it is put on the wrong line, will go to the wrong station, but if it is put on the right line then it will arrive at the right station or the right objective.

It is an axiom that direct negotiations are shorter than indirect negotiations. Indirect negotiations require conveyance from one party to another. Direct negotiations are shorter and the time they take to achieve the same objective is also shorter.

Direct negotiations are free from the risks of misunderstanding which are usaully the result of the conveyance process. It is known that if you tell someone something, he will convey it through his own words.

Misunderstanding often occurs among people whenever they have a mediator between them. Misunderstanding will be much less when they address each other directly.

However, the most important thing is that we want to learn about the true Iranian intentions and whether the Iranian acceptance was a tactical move to gain time with the aim of preparing for a new round of military action, or whether Iran actually wants peace.

We want to know its stand toward all the clauses of the UN Security Council resolution. We want to learn about its interpretation and understanding of the resolution, especially since Clause 4, as I said more than once, is related to attaining a comprehensive peace through which all pending issues between the two sides are settled. This will not be achieved except through direct negotiations.

Another thing is that, in fact, when we called for direct negotiations, we imagined that Iran would be the first party to welcome this request if it actually had good intentions toward the negotiations.

We also believed that if they were in a hurry for a cease-fire and for the implementation of the clauses of the resolution, then they should welcome the Iraqi request and not hamper or oppose it. As we said, the Iranian side's opposition to direct negotiations evokes suspicion.

[Announcer] Do you consider direct negotiations a precondition imposed by Iraq to begin the peace process?

[Hammadi] Never. A precondition is set when one party requests something in its favor and at the expense of the other party. Therefore, the request for direct negotiations will be a precondition when it is in the interest of Iraq and against Iran's interests.

Will direct negotiations achieve something in Iraq's interest at the expense of Iran? No. When we request direct negoitations we ask for a sound beginning and approach with the aim of reaching a sound conclusion.

This is not something to be added to Iraq's interest at the expense of Iran. Therefore, the talks about direct negotiations as a precondition set by Iraq is untrue and illogical.

[Announcer] Will the cease-fire come soon and when will it come in your opinion?

[Hammadi] We are for the attainment of a cease-fire as soon as possible. We have called for peace since 28 September; that is since the beginning of the war on 4 September.

We want the achievement of peace as soon as possible. But we do not believe that the cease-fire must take place regardless of anything else. The cease-fire must be the beginning of the process of achieving comprehensive peace.

Therefore, we believe that the negotiations must begin correctly and that there must be true goodwill by the Iranians to reach peace. This Iranian goodwill must not be expressed in words but embodied in actions so that we can reach true peace.

We, of course believe that there is a difference between true lasting peace and temporary truce or the state of no peace, no war. We are not for reaching a state of no peace, no war, or a temporary truce which would lead to a resumption of the fighting once again. The cease-fire must be the beginning of peace, not a truce and not a state of no peace, no war.

[Announcer] The UN secretary general has dispatched a technical team. What is the task of this team and what is your position on it?

[Hammadi] First, when the secretary general requested to dispatch this team, we agreed right from the beginning. The team has come and we are cooperating with it and providing it with all the means for the success of its task.

This team's task is to obtain the necessary preliminary technical data before beginning the cease-fire process. We are cooperating with the team. We have welcomed it and its work is proceeding well.

[Announcer] If your desire is to achieve peace as soon as possible, who then is delaying the peace process?

[Hammadi] We believe that Iran is the one delaying the peace process, because it wants the negotiations indirectly. And as I said, indirect negotiations take longer than direct negotiations.

But what is important is that Iran wants to avoid direct negotiations in order to avoid revealing its true intentions vis-a-vis the clauses of the Security Council resolution which are well known.

We do not want to place ourselves in a position whereby Iran would be able to select and implement some of the clauses of the Security Council resolution and avoid those which it thinks are against its own interest.

In view of its present military position which we talked about, Iran wants a cease-fire and also withdrawal because there are no longer any Iraqi territories under Iranian occupation.

Furthermore, the subject of the exchange of POW's is almost balanced. Therefore, Iran no longer has any strong cards to bargain with. Iran may be contemplating the implementation of some clauses of the Security Council resolution, possibly the first, second, and third clauses—and avoding the remaining clauses.

We cannot possibly be deceived here. We are very alert. There must be goodwill and intention to implement all the provisions of the Security Council Resolution Special Clause 4 which says both sides shall hold negotiations to settle all pending issues in order to achieve comprehensive peace.

[Announcer] What is the truth about the pressure being applied on Iraq now in New York and what are the sources of this pressure?

[Hammadi] We appreciate the world public's desire to achieve peace. We also appreciate all the international efforts that have been exerted to achieve peace. But we are the main party concerned here.

We are the ones who will be reaping the fruits of peace first and who would also bear the consequences of failure, if it occurred, God forbid. If certain international

parties believe that they can exert pressure on us now in order to meet certain illegitimate Iranian demands, then these parties are deluded and grossly mistaken.

We are not in a weak position. We are proposing the sound method of implementing the resolution. We are confident that the method we are proposing is the one that leads to true peace. Therefore, we will not succumb to any pressure from any direction, whether from a small or a big power, from outside or inside the Security Council, or from the five big powers or others. This must be clear.

[Announcer] How do you evaluate recent Iranian statements after their acceptance of the resolution?

[Hammadi] Is it not noticeable that the Iranian statements in general concentrate on the cease-fire and Clause 6 of the resolution to the exclusion of the other clauses?

This is noticeable. A sincere party seeking to implement all clauses of Resolution 598 must speak about all the clauses. I am following the Iranian statements. I have not heard so far any statement concerning Clause 4 which is the most important clause in Resolution 598.

Clause 4 calls for negotiations between both sides to settle all pending problems and to reach lasting comprehensive peace. Why don't the Iranians speak about this clause; why is it not mentioned in their statements? This is noticeable.

They speak about some clauses of the Security Council resolution which are in their interest now, especially after the recent developments in the military situation.

They talk about some articles of the resolution that are in their favor but do not talk about the other articles, and that is suspicious. We call for the implementation of all the articles of the Security Council resolution according to their sequence, with good intentions, and according to their text. The Iranians say one thing and do another.

[Announcer] Finally, what is the stand of the big powers on the issue of war and peace?

[Hammadi] We cannot say that we know the true stand of each state. However we can guess and we can analyze. We believe the big powers are not similar in their stand on the issue of war.

Some of them sincerely want the war to end. Others want the war to end but without being effective in ending it seriously. There are others that have specific interests.

Specifically, we believe some of the big powers are in the racing game to gain influence within Iran, particularly after the end of the war or after Khomeyni's demise.

There is evidence of the game of gaining influence within Iran and winning over the Iranian regime. The most important evidence is the Irangate scandal and the United States supplying the Iranian regime with arms. We can understand the big powers wanting to establish good relations with Iran.

We cannot prevent anyone from seeking to have good normal relations with Iran. That is a legitimate objective for all states. However, there is a difference between good legitimate relations and between good relations at our expense. There is a difference between the two.

We want to say that some of the big powers are in the racing game, competing for influence within Iran by granting the Iranian regime assistance and rewards at our expense.

I want to say to these parties that we are fully aware of this matter and we will not allow anyone to achieve gains at our expense. Gains should be legitimate ordinary gains, not for one party at the expense of another.

I would like to elaborate on this and say: Iraq has repeatedly declared that it has no territorial ambitions in Iran. We have no demands on Iran's legitimate rights.

We have repeatedly said that whatever kind of regime Iran has is not our affair but it is the Iranian people who decide what regime they have, that we will not interfere in Iran's internal affairs, and that we are not opposed to Iran's sovereignty over its territory and people or to its international independence.

There is now talk in the world about the idea that peace must be established on the basis that there is no victor or vanquished.

[Announcer] Yes, such a thing has been said.

[Hammadi] Yes. Well, Iran has lost the war, committed aggression against Iraq, and was compelled to sue for peace. If by saying that peace should be established on the basis of no victor or vanquished it is meant that neither Iraq should take from Iran nor Iran take from Iraq, that neither side achieves illegitimate gains, then that is understandable.

However, if what is meant is to give Iran an award at Iraq's expense or to compensate Iran for its losses in the war and for being compelled to sue for peace—if what is meant by neither victor nor vanquished is to give something to Iran at the expense of Iraq then we reject that, we do not accept it, and we resist it.

Therefore I say to these sides that it is better for us, for them, and for everyone that peace should progress in an honest and principled manner and that we carry out peace negotiations in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, the principles of justice and equality, and the principles of goodneighborliness and the

achievement of a firm and lasting peace, a peace that is not violated and does not collapse in a short period, a peace that does not enable Iran to achieve illegitimate gains at Iraq's expense.

[Announcer] We thank Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and minister of state for foreign affairs, for this interesting interview. Peace and God's blessings be upon you. Thank you.

[Hammadi] Many thanks.

Briefs Foreign Envoys on 598

JN3107153688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1453 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jul (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs, received in Baghdad today Greek Ambassador Andonios Exarkhos, the FRG charge d'affaires, and the Spanish charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

He briefed the representatives of the three countries on Iraq's position on the implemetation of Security Council Resolution No 598. He also stressed Iraq's eagerness to bring about a lasting, comprehensive, and guaranteed peace.

The Greek ambasador, whose country is currently chairing the EEC, also explained the EEC's position on Resolution No 598 in light of the statement issued by the EC's 12 countries on the issue of achieving peace between Iraq and Iran.

Abu Ghazalah Arrives in Baghdad for Military Talks

NC3007114388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, arrived in Baghdad this morning to discuss military cooperation.

Views Military, Industrial Ties

NC3007120088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, today held a meeting with General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces and defense minister.

The talks dealt with strengthening bilateral cooperation in military affairs and industries. The meeting was also attended by Brigadier General Husayn Kamil, Iraqi minister of industry and military industrialization, some members of the Egyptian delegation accompanying Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah, and members of the General Command of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

Meets with Saddam

JN3007172988 Baghdad INA in English 1640 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, July 30, INA—President Saddam Husayn received visiting Egyptian Deputy premier and minister of Defence and War Production Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah who conveyed to H.E. [his excellency] the congratulations of President Husni Mubarak and the brotherly people of Egypt on recent victories achieved by brave Iraqi Armed Forces in liberating Iraqi national soil from the filth of the Iranian invaders.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah also renewed Egypt's support to Iraq in its heroic confrontation of Iranian greeds which are aimed at the security and the sovereignty of Iraq and the Arab nation.

During the meeting which was attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces and Minister of Defence Gen. 'Adnan Khayrallah, the president's secretary and the Egyptian ambassador in Baghdad, brotherly relations between the two countries and Arab developments in general were discussed.

Concludes Visit

JN3107071488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 31 Jul (INA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Egyptian deputy prime minister, minister of defense and war production, and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and his delegation left Baghdad last night following a 1-day cordial visit to Iraq.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah was seen off by Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, a number of senior Armed Forces officers, and the Egyptian ambassador in Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives To Discuss War

JN0108174288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Aug (INA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived here this evening on a visit to Iraq to last several days.

During the visit, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir will attend meetings of the seven-member committee entrusted with following up the developments of the Iraq-Iran war. the meetings will begin here tomorrow, Tuesday.

Receiving him at the airport were Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister and acting foreign minister; the Foreign Minsitry under secretary; and the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Klibi, Arab League Ministers Arrive for Talks

JN0108203688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Aug (INA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived here tonight to participate in the meetings of the seven-member committee tasked with following up the developments of the Iraq-Iran war.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Cheikh, and Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri also arrived in Baghdad for the same purpose.

In a statement to INA, Klibi said he is happy to visit Baghdad following the Iraqi army's regaining of all its sacred national soil that was occupied by the Iranian enemy in unique and daring military operations.

Klibi said peace is no longer an unattainable objective thanks to the Iraqi people's steadfastness and sacrifices, and thanks to their leadership because peace is the only logical option for settling the conflict under the canopy of international law.

He said international law secures for the two parties their legitimate rights and restores to the region the atmopshere of stability, accord, and good neighborliness.

He expressed thanks and appreciation for all the friendly countries which stood by Iraq's side in its confrontation of the aggression against its territory.

Klibi congratulated the Iraqi people for the victories they scored to liberate all their territory and to crown their march with success. He also praised President Saddam Husayn and valued his wise and firm leadership which will enable all the people in the region to enjoy peace.

He said this will enable them to devote attention and efforts to the major challenges of development, prosperity, and impregnability against Zionist hegemony.

Klibi and the ministers were welcomed at the airport by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister and acting foreign minister; the Foreign Ministry under secretary, Iraq's Arab League representative; and the Arab ambassadors of the countries that are members in the seven-member comittee.

UN Experts Team Arrives in Baghdad 29 Jul

JN2907191288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—The UN experts team led by General Martin Vadest from Norway arrived in Baghdad this afternoon. The UN team includes six other experts.

Communique No 3,281 Details 31 Jul-1 Aug Combat

JN0108172888 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1705 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Communique No 3,281 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 1 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our triumphant forces continued to carry out their activities last night and today as follows:

1. Our bold helicopter gunships inflicted new losses on enemy personnel, vehicles, and equipment by carrying out 50 combat missions. All our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, nine aggressors were killed, a machine gun and a personnel carrier were destroyed, and three ammunition dumps were blown up.

3. A force of the futile enemy, a company of infantry traveling in boats, yesterday tried to approach the positions of one of our units in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

The valiant men of this unit confronted the enemy with their weapons, killing most of the enemy scoundrels and forcing the remainder to flee, pursued by artillery and mortar fire.

4. In the VII Army Corps sector, four infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants were killed or wounded.

5. Last night the vile Khomeyniites shelled with long-range artillery the Bimalik residential complex of the village of Qal'at Dizah. The enemy shelling martyred two civilians, including a woman, and wounded eight citizens, including five children and a woman. Three houses were also damaged.

Paradise for our two martyrs and swift recovery for our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 1 August 1988

Shi'ite Leader 'Feels' Hostage Release Imminent

TA0208131088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] A somewhat surprising report has been received from Beirut: One of the pro-Iranian Shi'ite group leaders hints that it is very possible the U.S. hostages held by Shi'ite radicals will be released soon.

In an interview with an Arab weekly appearing in Paris, Shaykh Muhammad Fadlallah says he feels—these are his exact words—the hostages will be released either shortly after the U.S. elections, or on the very day of the elections—that is, in November.

The hostages referred to by the leader are probably the 9 Americans held by the Hizballah, as well as the 18 nationals of other countries whom he did not mention. According to Shaykh Fadlallah, the reason for the impending release is the fact that holding on to the Americans after the elections will be worthless.

It should be emphasized that this report has not been confirmed by any other source.

Shamir Rejects U.S. Protests on Deportations

TA0208100088 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 2 Aug 88 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir, Oren Kohen, and Washington correspondent Drora Perl]

[Excerpts] The United States is concerned about a worsening in the intifada [uprising] in the territories following Husayn's announcement that he is cutting Jordan off from the West Bank, and in the wake of the deportation of eight inhabitants of the territories to Lebanon.

The U.S. Administration yesterday denounced the deportations, describing the action as "harmful and damaging the chances for peace." U.S. State Department officials said it appears that Israel has decided to make deportations a policy rather than a rarely used punishment, which is much more effective. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Shamir yesterday expressed his regret over the U.S. protest, but said that Israel could not take it into account in the struggle it is facing over its very existence.

Reportage on Reactions to Jordanian Decisions

Shamir Cited

TA0108105188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says King Husayn's speech constitutes a deathblow to the existence of the Palestinian people. Mr Shamir says that according to King Husayn, one part of the Palestinian people will struggle to establish a state, whereas the other part will be Jordanian. So where are the unified Palestinian people? Mr Shamir asks.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Prime Minister Shamir made these remarks in a meeting with John Cunningham, New Zealand's new ambassador to Israel. The prime minister added that King Husayn's speech leads to the conclusion that the issue of the Palestinian people is only propaganda.

Like the PLO, Husayn is interested in a full Israeli withdrawal, but this will never happen. There is no territorial solution. What we need is a solution of coexistence. This is why we have the Camp David Accords, which include a 5-year autonomy plan for the Arabs living in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The prime minister believes that following this period of time mutual trust will grow and a permanent solution will be found.

PLO's Abu Sharif Comments

TA0108110988 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Aug 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpt] The PLO is demanding that the West Bank and Gaza Strip be handed over to UN rule in the wake of King Husayn's announcement that he is cutting the legal and administrative ties between the Hashemite Kingdom and the West Bank.

Bassam Abu Sharif, 'Arafat's senior adviser, said this yesterday in an interview from London. He pointed out that when Jordan leaves the scene, the PLO would be prepared to stop its activities in the territories in order to allow the populace to respond to a referendum on their future representation without feeling pressured: "We offer this challenge because the Palestinians are determined to continue the struggle for self-determination and the establishment of their own state.

"The king's decisions will only create additional pressure for a solution which will incorporate the Palestinian right to self-determination. The king's announcements have not changed the deep social, economic, and political connection between the Palestinians and the Jordanians, and certainly will not change or influence the loyalty of the residents of the territories to the PLO," Abu Sharif said.

'Arafat's adviser also made it clear that the document dealing with the policy change and the PLO's desire for negotiations with Israel prior to peace in the region expresses the organization's official position.

"We are prepared for peace, but such an agreement must include the Palestinian right to self-determination within the framework of an international conference, with the

participation of the superpowers in order to guarantee the security of both sides. The Israeli response to the document is disappointing, and I call on Israeli leaders to show courage and make the right decisions in that direction."

In response to a question, Abu Sharif said that 'Arafat's departure for Amman has not yet been set. Following the reports about the king's new policy, the PLO's Executive Committee convened in Baghdad and discussed, among other things, the invitations Jordan has sent to Yasir 'Arafat during the past few months to meet with Husayn. He said that 'Arafat decided to respond positively to the invitation, but the visit will take place at a date suitable to the PLO leader. [passage omitted]

Jordan Restricts Visitors

TA0108115688 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 1 Aug 88 p 3

[Text] Nabulus—It has been learned that the Jordanian Government has decided to abolish the card it issues visitors from the East Bank and Arab states allowing them to stay in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip for 3 years, with an automatic renewal for an additional 3 years. This card is being replaced by a green card that permits the bearer to stay in the occupied territories for 1 month only and is not renewable.

This measure took effect as of last Friday, when the cards were standardized and attached to the visitor's passport.

Informed sources noted that West Bank Palestinians who used to carry these cards and who resided in Arab states are also not permitted to stay in Amman more than 1 month.

Rabin Cited

TA0108145788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Report by Asaf Ashkenazi]

[Text] Husayn's speech does not give an answer to the important question of whether, by announcing a severance of ties, it implies pressure on the inhabitants of the territories. This was Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's reaction this morning to King Husayn's speech.

[Begin Rabin recording] Is it a tactical or more far-reaching move? I think we will not be able to determine this before December 1988 and February 1989, because the main question of whether this signifies pressure on the inhabitants of the territories remains as yet unanswered. I believe that if the monarch takes harsher measures, this could have a serious economic impact on the inhabitants of the territories, and possibly lead some of them to reassess their positions. [end recording]

If King Husayn makes good on some of the moves to separate himself from the West Bank, the number of violent incidents in the territories may decrease, although tension in the area may mount. We will only be able to assess the real import of the speech, however, after the Israeli and U.S. elections.

[Begin Rabin recording] If King Husayn realizes that the political process does not stand a chance, I believe his moves will evolve into a deeper political freeze. If I take into consideration also the fact that the Iran-Iraq war is on the decline, I think that in the long term, the danger of a conflagration may become more imminent. [end recording]

To sum up, Rabin does not view Husayn's move as the end of the Jordanian option. He thinks that the implementation of negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is largely up to Israel.

Palestinian Figures Comment

JN0108161088 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1450 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Palestinian figures from the territories have expressed their views on King Husayn's statement and his various decisions. Radio correspondent Ibrahim Shahid sought the views of three figures. On the "With the Events" program, we have recorded these telephone conversations with a number of Palestinian figures: Farah Saba al-A'raj, mayor of Bayt Jala; Hanna Sinyurah, AL-FAJR editor in chief, and Tahsin al-Faris, member of the Jordanian House of Representatives.

[Begin recording] [Al-A'raj] We heard the king's speech, which came in response to demands from the Arab countries and the PLO. From the political point of view, we hope that the step will help in activating the situation and solving the problem. I urge Jordan not to take measures other than those contained in his majesty's speech such as the suspension of the development plan. I hope the bridges will continue to open and passports will be renewed and granted.

Regarding the development plan and the dissolution of the parliament, I can say they have been decided and can be overlooked, but measures other than that on the bridges, passports, and imported vegetables and fruits from the West Bank should be taken because these issues will harm the inhabitants of the West Bank.

[Hanna Sinyurah] King Husayn's speech yesterday was clear. It was on the disengagement of the legal and administrative relationship between the West Bank and the East Bank. This means that King Husayn has accepted the establishment of a Palestinian state between Jordan and Israel. We welcome this step because it is the Palestinian people's aspiration, and the Palestinian people want to establish their independent state. At the same time, King Husayn said there are

pan-Arab commitments to which Jordan will adhere. We welcome a new relationship based on equality between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples.

[Al-Faris] In fact, the measure was taken at the request of the PLO. But as a people, our ties with Jordan and the East bank cannot be cut by any power in the world. These ties and relations are deep-rooted and a sound and real example of unity in which blood and destiny are one. I believe that this unity will continue, and no leader can cut these ties and relations.

[Shahid] How do you assess the legal and administrative disengagement mentioned by the king?

[Al-Faris] I appeal to the PLO and say that Jordan took the measure only on a request and on insistence. I appeal to them to understand our condition here, because we are subject to annexation as a result of the absence of the legal authority we used to enjoy. If this legal authority ends, we as owners, farmers, merchants, and cities will be harmed. [end recording]

More Jordanian Steps Expected

TA0108183588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] High-ranking Jordanian officials today unofficially issued warnings that King Husayn may soon implement a series of sharp measures against the inhabitants of the West Bank. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that these measures include, among other things, halting the issue of new passports to the inhabitants of the territories, ending financial support for various institutions and municipalities, and terminating the payment of salaries to some civil servants in Judaea and Samaria.

Our correspondent says that it seems Husayn is awaiting Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in Amman to reach a public agreement on future moves. Meanwhile, 'Arafat has forbidden PLO spokesmen from commenting on the monarch's remarks.

Several PLO supporters in the territories have already complained that Husayn is trying to deny the PLO representation of the Palestinians residing on the East Bank.

Meanwhile, no changes were noticed on Allenby Bridge today following King Husayn's speech last night. On the contrary, incoming passenger traffic was higher than usual today due to the return of many pilgrims from Mecca. Travelers from Jordan have reported confusion in the Palestinian community in Jordan following the king's address.

Jordanian Measures Leaked

TA0208135588 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] High-ranking Jordanian sources have stated that the Jordanian Government will announce several important measures and decisions in the next few days within Jordan's current political orientation proclaimed by King Husayn in his recent speech.

Some of these measures, which were leaked yesterday, include: Regarding trade unions, the Jordanian labor minister ordered all unions to organize their future status on the basis of being able to represent Jordanian members only. No union will be permitted to set up or establish a branch in the West Bank. Unions maintaining branches in the West Bank should remedy the situation and conform to the new measures.

Regarding the Awqaf Department, the Jordanian Ministry of Religious Trusts is currently studying several programs that will determine the future work of the Awqaf Department in Jerusalem following the severing of its links with the ministry.

It has also been learned that intense activity aimed at drawing up a specific formula for implementing the government's decision on disengaging the West Bank from Jordan is now taking place in all important Jordanian ministries and departments.

One of the most active ministries is that of Occupied Territories, which during the past 2 days summoned a large number of senior officials from the West Bank, especially heads of licensing departments, who left for Amman yesterday.

Meanwhile, some observers in Amman reported that important talks are currently taking place with Palestinian officials from the PLO aimed at transferring administrative responsibilities, particularly those relating to the daily lives of Palestinian residents in the West Bank, from Jordanian organizations and departments to Palestinians.

The observers also reported that for its part, the PLO is getting ready to draw up plans and arrangements inside the West Bank aimed at filling the gap Jordan will leave after disengagement. Numerous departments will, therefore, undergo significant changes.

Observers stressed that the next few days will hold extremely important surprises for the Palestinian residents.

Labor Rejects Talks With PLO

TA0208043188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Reacting to King Husayn's speech, the Israel Labor Party has come out against negotiations with the PLO and in favor of negotiations with a joint Jordanian and Palestinian delegation. Basically Labor's platform is unchanged in the wake of the king's speech.

'Encouraging' Husayn Message

TA0208105188 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Aug 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Orli Azulay-Katz]

[Text] Several hours before Husayn delivered his speech 2 days ago, an envoy arrived from Amman with a message from the king to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

The envoy—an American Jewish businessman who is one of the leaders of the Jewish community in the United States—arrived in Israel following a long talk with King Husayn.

Husayn said he considers himself bound to the peace process and to the "London agreement" (although the king did not mention the "London agreement" explicitly, he said he was committed to previous agreements). Husayn also said that he considers himself a partner to any peace process in the future.

A senior source close to the foreign minister said that the message was "encouraging."

The envoy held a lengthy meeting in Israel with Shim'on Peres before leaving for Jordan to meet with Husayn. The foreign minister conveyed a message to Husayn in which he asked that the latter avoid any steps which would obstruct the peace process.

Intelligence Branch Predicted End to Gulf War

TA0208064588 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Jul 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] Two weeks before the Iranian announcement regarding the cease-fire, Israel conveyed to United States intelligence assessments that Iran was very close to a decision on ending the war. The U.S. reaction was: "Such an Iranian decision is still very far off—so far that we cannot even consider it." The U.S. official who made these remarks was Morton Abromowitz, head of the State Department's Intelligence and Research Bureau.

A senior source familiar with the issue says that Israeli intelligence is the only body in the entire Western intelligence community that recently sounded assessments regarding the imminent end of the Gulf war. "When we voiced such assessments, people looked upon us as the village fools," said the source.

The source says that the IDF Intelligence Branch had voiced such assessments over the last 8 months, and even wrote them down as part of its annual assessment of the situation presented to the government. The assessment says that in light of the Iraqi victories and the heavy casualties, the Iranian leadership will have no alternative to convening this year to make difficult decisions regarding ending the war or changing the way it is being conducted.

Such assessments were also raised by a senior Intelligence Branch officer in an appearance before the Inner Cabinet 3 weeks ago. In yesterday's cabinet session, most of the ministers noted that the Intelligence Branch indeed voiced correct assessments regarding the imminent end of the Gulf war.

The Intelligence Branch assessments on Iraqi victories that would change the course of the war were made even before the decisive battle won by the Iraqis on the island of Al-Faw.

In a meeting of Intelligence Branch Research Division officers several days ago, all the speakers noted that their conscience is clear because this time they did their job properly.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

8 Deported to Lebanon

TA0108142588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Two Gazans and six residents of Judaea and Samaria were deported to Lebanon this afternoon. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that they come from Al-Birah, Nabulus, Qalandiyah, and Gaza. The expulsion orders against the eight were issued because they are senior activists in terrorist organizations who engaged in instigative and subversive operations. Some of them are among the leading inciters and organizers of the violent disturbances that have taken place recently. Some of them have served prison terms for terrorist and instigative activity.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 1 August adds: "The deportees include 'Adnan Muhammad 'Ayn Fatah Dahir of Al-Birah, who is charged with the dissemination of subversive material and organizing strikes; and Ahmad Muhammad Jabir Sulayman from Turmus 'Ayya, a senior DFLP activist; Lu'i 'Ali Nafi' 'Abdu of Nabulus, who was caught early in 1975 at Ben-Gurion Airport carrying a bomb, and is active in organizing the riots; Jamal Dhiyab Lafi Abu Latifa of Qalandiyah, who is an Al-Shabibah leader in that refugee camp; Mursi 'Abd al-Hadi Abu Ghuwaylah, who is also an Al-Shabibah activist; and Sahmir Mahmud Khadr Subayhat of Al-Birah who has been active in Fatah since 1975. Jamil Jakut of Gaza is an active member of a hostile organization, as is Ziyad Rushdi Nahlah, who was released as part of the deal with Ahmad Jibril. Both are accused of incitement and organizing the unrest."]

Deportation Demonstrations Follow

TA0108182188 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] The report on the expulsion of eight residents of the territories, including two from Gaza, led to demonstrations and riots in the center of town and other neighborhoods. The demonstrators blocked roads with garbage cans, rocks, and burning tires. The security forces dispersed the demonstrations with tear gas. No one was hurt.

Ramallah 'Terrorist' Sentenced

TA0108173288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] The Ramallah military court has sentenced Jihad Ahmad Mustafa Abibi, aged 21, from Ramallah to a 25-year prison term. He was found guilty of attempting to assassinate two Israelis in the Old City of Jerusalem in January 1987. He was also convicted of another long list of aborted attempts to carry out terrorist attacks on missions for the PFLP. In January 1987 he and another terrorist attacked brothers Shalom and Eli Ohayon in the Old City of Jerusalem, stabbing them in the neck. The two brothers were wounded. The other terrorist has not yet been captured.

2 Wounded in Nabulus Riot

TA0108185288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Two youths were wounded today during a riot in the Nabulus casbah. The incidents occurred when an IDF foot patrol was attacked by bricks and stones thrown from the casbah roofs. When the commanders felt that the lives of the patrol soldiers were endangered, they opened fire and wounded two of the rioters. The two wounded were taken to Al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus.

IDF Kill Youth in Nabulus

TA0208153088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Excerpt] 'Ala' al-Din Arbab, 18, was killed during violent disturbances in Nabulus this morning. Our correspondent Arye Gus has learned from military sources that the man was shot by an IDF patrol as he was about to hurl a large brick at the soldiers from a nearby roof. The incident took place in the Nabulus casbah. Two other residents were injured as the troops dispersed the rioters. [passage omitted]

Stone Injures Driver in Shu'fat

TA0208043488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] An Israeli driver was injured in the eye last night by a stone thrown at his vehicle as he was driving through Shu'fat in north Jerusalem. His windshield was smashed. Police are investigating.

Commercial Strike Enters 2d Day

TA0208104288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Excerpts] At least two Arabs were wounded by army gunfire this morning in a clash outside the Hebron area village of Dura. A hospital spokeswoman said the injuries were light; this, while the territories are observing the 2d day of commercial strike. More from reporter Steve Rodan:

At this point the incident remains unclear, but what appears certain is that early this morning a bus carrying Arab laborers passed the village of Dura south of Hebron. The bus came under a hail of stones from local Arabs, intent on stopping all laborers from arriving to their jobs in Israel, especially during today's general strike called by the leaders of the Palestinian uprising.

Military sources say an army patrol responded to the stone throwing and was also attacked. The commander of the unit gave the order to fire, and two Arabs were injured. They were taken to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Today is the 2d day of the general strike called in the territories to protest the deportations of Palestinians. Eight Palestinians were deported yesterday, alleged to have played a major role in organizing the unrest in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Today all stores are closed, there is little traffic on the streets, and Arab public transportation is light.

'Terrorist Squad' Near Security Zone 'Warded Off'

TA0108143088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Last night an IDF unit warded off a terrorist squad that attempted to penetrate the security strip. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that an IDF unit on a routine patrol near the village of Al-Tayyibah on the outskirts of the security zone spotted several figures and opened fire on them.

Later searches revealed Kalashnikov rifles, RPG's, and hand grenades left behind by the fleeing terrorists.

King Husayn Chairs General Command Meeting
JN3007153188 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, Armed Forces supreme commander, visited the General Command at noon today.

Receiving him were Staff Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, Armed Forces commander in chief; Staff General Fathi Abu Talib, chief of staff; the assistants to the chief of staff; the Armed Forces inspector general; and the Royal Jordanian Air Force commander.

His majesty met with the commander in chief for a while. His Majesty King Husayn also chaired a meeting of senior Armed Forces officers in the presence of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

AFP Reports Reactions to King Husayn's Address
JN0108190888 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's speech enjoyed overall support from all the sons of his people.

It was also largely welcomed by people in the occupied Arab territories and by the PLO circles and Arab quarters.

AFP reported that the Palestinian notables in the occupied Arab territories were satisfied with what His Majesty King Husayn announced in his historic speech yesterday.

Hanna Sinyurah, chief editor of the Jerusalem newspaper AL-FAJR, described the Jordanian step as positive. He hoped the PLO would put this stand into practice.

Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, head of the Arab Journalists Association in occupied Jerusalem, supported his majesty's speech. Abu 'Ayyash said it is a sound and realistic step compatible with the PLO's wish.

In Abu Dhabi, Bassam Abu Sharif, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, told REUTER that His Majesty King Husayn's speech is in line with the Arab summits' resolutions, particularly the Algiers summit, and is not meant to break the historical bonds between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples.

In Baghdad, AP quoted Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, as praising relations with Jordan following His Majesty King Husayn's speech. He said at a closed session of the PLO Central Council in Baghdad: Relations with Jordan are distinguished and should be preserved.

In Damascus, the DFLP Political Bureau held an extraordinary meeting. It welcomed his majesty the king's speech and supported his majesty's announcement that Jordan will continue to extend material aid to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah said the recent Jordanian decisions came in response to the PLO's wish and Arab unanimity.

Hawatimah added that highlighting the Palestinian identity is a blow directed to Israel, which disavows the Palestinian existence and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

West Bank, Gaza Passports Reportedly Unaffected
JN0108063988 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0612 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Aug (WAKH)—Press reports in Abu Dhabi today said Jordanian passports issued to Palestinians residing in the occupied West Bank and Gaza will not be affected by recent measures to disengage the Jordanian relationship with the occupied West Bank.

Citing Jordanian sources, AL-ITTIHAD says the continuing validity of these passports aims to assist Palestinians residing in the West Bank and Gaza.

Israeli Report on Passports Termed 'Baseless'
JN0108182688 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1805 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] An official spokesman has stated the following:

Israeli television in its Arabic newscast at 1930 [1630 GMT] today, 1 August 1988, reported that the Jordanian Interior Ministry has prepared red travel documents to replace the Jordanian passports carried by Jordanian citizens in the West Bank.

This report is one of a series of fabricated reports recently disseminated by the Israeli news media.

These reports are baseless and fabricated in part and parcel.

'Official' Source Cited on West Bank Employees
JN0208063188 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Aug 88 pp 1, 19

[Text] An official Jordanian source stated yesterday that Jordan's decision to disengage its relationship with the West Bank means the immediate termination of thousands of citizens in the occupied territory from Jordanian government posts.

The source said that about 5,200 jobs created in the West Bank prior to 1967 have been canceled in accordance with the decision and that those holding these posts in

the departments and ministries of health; agriculture; Islamic affairs, holy places, and religious trusts; social affairs; and education will not receive their salaries from now on. He said these salaries total $1.5 million monthly.

In practice the responsibilities will be transferred to the PLO, "the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," and, since the day before yesterday, the sole body responsible for the occupied territory, according to the same source.

The source added that 16,000 other Palestinians who do not qualify as employees and who have been serving the inhabitants of the West Bank since 1967 and the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip since 1986 will also, as of now, not receive payment from Amman for their work.

He said that in the past 17 months, such payments totaled about $62 million.

Jordanian political circles said that the effect of the disengagement on the 1 million Palestinians in the West Bank who hold Jordanian passports is not clear.

These circles say that "no solution will be imposed" on these people and Jordan will not "confiscate" their passports, but at the same time these circles do not rule out the possibility these passports will not be renewed.

The same circles say that the two bridges across the Jordan river are open. They add that Jordan will continue to buy citrus fruits from the occupied territory and "export permit" forms will be issued to farmers in the West Bank who sell 50 percent of their products in Jordan.

Columnist on Cancellation of Development Plan

JN0108103188 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
1 Aug 88 p 22

["Headlines" column; "The Cancellation of the 5-year Plan for Development in the Occupied Territories," by Fahd al-Fanik]

[Text] Since it was announced in 1986, the 5-year development plan for development in the occupied territories was a case for differences, interpretations, and discussions.

It neither received unanimous acceptance at any time in Jordan itself or in the occupied Palestinian territories or the Arab homeland in general.

By then, we had presented the positive and negative points in the plan. On the positive side, the plan represented a practical attempt to entrench Arab citizens in their land, support their steadfastness in their homes, and help them withstand the pressures of occupation.

On the negative side, the plan meant that money had to be obtained from different Arab and foreign sources to be spent on projects approved, or at least not objected to, by the occupation.

From a purely technical viewpoint, the problem with the plan was its lack of the principal pillar in planning, that is, the national will and the power to make decisions because the occupied territories are under the authority of a foreign occupier.

It has never before been the cased that there was development and economic planning for a country or territory under hostile occupation where the planner does not have the power to make the final decision.

From purely economic and financial viewpoints , the cancellation of the plan will not result in the cancellation of important projects that could have been implemented if it were not for the cancellation.

This is because the plan originally lacked finances, especially since Jordan's own resources and the state of the general budget did not allow for allocation of any significant amount of money to finance the plan.

The money obtained from abroad over 2 years is approximately 2 percent of the volume of the overall plan.

This money came mainly from the United States and Britain as symbolic support for the idea.

The importance of the latest Jordanian decision does not lie in economic, financial, and development results, but in its political and national meaning.

The decision demonstrates that Jordan is serious in considering the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

For the PLO, and some foreign observers, the plan only meant to challenge the PLO and compete with it for the hearts and pockets of the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Finally, the Jordanian decision to cancel the plan was a necessary one.

It could not have been delayed and it must be understood in all of its dimensions and positive and national meanings.

Fadlallah: 'No Positive Sign' in U.S. Policy

NC0208131188 Paris AFP in English 1304 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Beirut, Aug 2 (AFP)—The spiritual guide of the pro-Iranian Hizballah group Tuesday slammed the U.S. stand on the issue of foreign hostages held in Lebanon and reiterated Tehran's calls for Washington to unfreeze Iranian assets.

"We say to the U.S. secretary of defence that they (the United States) must unfreeze Iranian assets because it is only normal that the money should be returned to its owners," Shaykh Mohammed Husayn Fadlallah said.

Shaykh Fadlallah, in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, said he saw "no positive sign in the attitude of the United States vis-a-vis the hostage question and even in the way that they are treating this problem." [passage omitted]

"Positive and open relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries are likely to help settle many problems," Shaykh Fadlallah said, adding that he had recently been asked to meet with an Anglican Church envoy who came here as part of efforts to free British hostages.

John Brown, the bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf, travelled to Lebanon recently to seek information about four Iranians seized in Beirut six years ago. Church officials have said they hoped that in return Iran would use its influence to win the release of the three missing Britons.

Shaykh Fadlallah said however that he turned down the invitation to meet with the Reverend Brown because he was not the right person to contact for such matters.

Apart from the U.S. hostages, at least another six foreigners are believed to be in the hands of pro-Iranian militants in Lebanon, including the Church of England envoy Terry Waite.

U.S.-Iran 'Secret Contacts' in Beirut Reported

NC0108175588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] The Italian magazine PANORAMA has quoted Lebanese intelligence sources as saying direct secret contacts took place between American and Iranian officials in Beirut over a period of 1 month with a view to freeing the U.S. hostages in Lebanon and solving the problem of frozen Iranian assets in the United States.

The magazine states these consultations were stepped up a few days after the downing of the Iranian airliner in the Gulf.

The magazine notes U.S. sources have denied all this and that Vernon Walters, the U.S. representative at the United Nations, rejected the very idea, describing such dealings as despicable transactions.

PANORAMA affirms Iranian Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani has given his blessing to these consultations and promised several times to release the hostages, but has not fulfilled his promise.

8 Palestinians Deported From Israel to South

NC0108143388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1428 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Palestinian sources have stated that the Israeli authorities deported eight Palestinians from Israel to southern Lebanon today. Later, Israel said that six of the deportees are West Bank residents and two are from the Gaza Strip.

Deportation Called 'Violation'

NC0108195088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] As part of their arbitrary actions, the Israeli authorities today deported eight Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Lebanon on the pretext that they had participated in the uprising.

It has been learned that the deportees were taken to the Zummarayya crossing point by Israeli military truck and from there they proceeded to western Al-Biqa'.

In the first official Lebanese reaction, Salah Sutaytiyah, the director of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry, has said that the deportation constitutes a violation of human rights and the UN Charter. It also constitutes a flagrant and blatant violation of the right of a man to stay on his own land.

Sutaytiyah added that the deportation of these Palestinians to Lebanon is considered a violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and its right to defend its borders. On this basis, we will take diplomatic action to force Israel to respect Lebanon's sovereignty and rights.

Complaint to UN

NC0208054188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Lebanon has decided to file an official complaint with the UN Security Council against Israel for deporting eight Palestinians to Lebanese territory yesterday.

Amal: Detained Hizballah Members Smuggling Arms

NC0108170988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] As part of the media war between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, the Amal Movement Information Bureau today responded to Hizballah's recent accusations against the movement.

It called on Hizballah to end the abnormal situation, resolve internal conflicts, and indicate the party with whom it would be possible to conduct a dialogue and reach an understanding.

The Amal Movement Information Bureau maintained that the detained Hizballah elements were smuggling weapons. It noted that investigations are continuing to determine the source and purpose of the smuggled weapons.

Yesterday, Hizballah accused the Amal Movement of detaining 30 Hizballah elements in southern villages. The party held Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri responsible for the continuation of these spiteful practices.

Al-Rasi on Syrian Security Role During Elections

NC0208055988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] In response to the question raised by the Army Command, Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi has affirmed that the Syrian forces, like all other security forces, will be placed at his disposal during the elections. He added that all security forces will coordinate among themselves to ensure that the elections take place in a healthy atmosphere.

Asked whether it is likely that these forces will come under bombardment, Al-Rasi noted that they are entitled to return fire in self-defense. The interior minister did not touch on the issue of contact lines, which no longer exist, as he put it.

In another development, a Syrian force made up of 200 special unit troops was deployed between the towns of Ba'lshmayh and Ru'aysat al-Ballut to curb the violent clashes that have left six people dead and a number wounded from the Abu Farraj and Zaydan clans.

Syrian Post Attacked; Casualties Reported

NC0208141288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February organization has claimed responsibility for an attack on a Syrian occupation forces position in the 'Ayn al-Burj locality in Al-Minyah in the North at dawn this morning.

The group stated that there were casualties among the occupation forces.

'Saboteurs' Attack SLA Patrol; No Casualties

NC0208102088 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol came under antitank fire from positions in Jba', 'Ayn Buswar, and Jarju' while inspecting the road to Jabal Safi in the Jazzin area at 1000 today.

Members of the patrol returned fire with the appropriate weapons for 30 minutes without suffering any losses. Losses inflicted on the saboteurs are not yet known.

Lahd Member Killed; Israeli Gunboats Off Coast

NC0208110688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMt 2 Aug 88

[Text] AFP has cited security sources as saying that a member of the agent militia was killed this morning when resistance men attacked an agents' position north of the occupied town of Al-Habbariyah.

The Resistance Front has issued a statement declaring that one of its groups fired a number of Katyushas at an agents' position in Shwayya in the eastern sector.

In another development, the occupation authorities arrested seven citizens from the town of Kafr Killa and took them to an unknown destination.

Meanwhile, Israeli gunboats intensified patrols along the southern coast and opened fire at fishing boats near the Al-Naqurah coast.

Briefs

PSP Appointment

PSP leader Walid Junblatt has issued a decision appointing Durayd Yaghi as PSP third deputy chairman in charge of external affairs. [Summary] [*NC0108124788 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 1 Aug 88*]

PDRY Foreign Minister Arrives in Damascus

JN3007143788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali and the accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus this morning.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shari', the PDRY ambassador to Syria, and directors of the Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments in the Foreign Ministry received him at Damascus International Airport.

Al-Dali made a statement to the SANA correspondent expressing his joy and happiness at his visit to Syria. He said that the aim of the visit is to hold fraternal talks concerning bilateral relations and developments in the Arab region.

Al-Dali said: I carry a message from President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas to his brother, the struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. He expressed his great appreciation for Syria's pan-Arab stand in confronting all dangers presented by Zionism and imperialism.

He said: We hold Syria's role in high esteem because it is a pioneering role in confronting Zionist and imperialist schemes. We always stand on Syria's side in its forward line with all our capacities at its disposal.

Received by Al-Shar'

JN3007155788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali. Present at the meeting were Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister; Mustafa 'Imran, Arab Homeland Department director; and the PDRY ambassador in Damascus.

They discussed Arab developments and how to further bilateral ties. [passage omitted]

Received by Khaddam

JN3107141088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Damascus—At 1130 today Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali and the accompanying delegation in the presence of the PDRY ambassador in Damascus. Talks dealt with the situation and developments in the region.

Presents Letter to Al-Asad

JN0108151288 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Damascus, 1 Aug (SANA)—His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad at noon today received Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, PDRY foreign minister. Present at the meeting were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Muhammad Shatfah, PDRY ambassador in Damascus.

Al-Dali gave a letter from Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY's Supreme People's Council Presidium, to his excellency the president. Discussions during the meeting ranged over Arab developments.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN0108184288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali left Damascus this evening concluding a 3-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

On hand to see him off at Damascus International Airport were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', chiefs of the Arab homeland and protocol desks at the Foreign Ministry, and the PDRY Damascus ambassador and embassy staff.

In a predeparture statement to SANA, the PDRY foreign minister praised his Damascus visit. His talks with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', added al-Dali, yielded good results. He also reviewed with him bilateral ties and a previously-signed agreement between the two countries and looked into prospects for future cooperation.

Al-Dali said he and his Syrian hosts discussed recent Arab developments and how to increase Arab solidarity in the face of hostile plots and Zionist and imperialist dangers posed to the Arab nation. He concluded by calling his visit a complete success, which should further cement ties between the two brotherly countries.

Vice President Receives Lebanon's Al-Husayni

JN3007144088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received at 1130 this morning Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. Talks centered on the situation in the Lebanese arena.

Received by Al-Asad 31 Jul

JN3107173088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' joined the meeting later. During the meeting, there was a general review of the situation in the Lebanese arena as well as the efforts being exerted to handle the tasks facing the Lebanese brothers.

The president asserted that the Syrian decision is to stand alongside Lebanon, support the efforts designed to end the abnormal situation resulting from the lengthy conflict, proceed on the road to national reconciliation, and maintain the unity of Lebanese territory, people, and institutions.

Romania's Ceausescu Receives Industry Minister

AU2807191588 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1822 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Bucharest AGERPRES 28/7/1988—On 28 July, President Nicolae Ceausescu of the Socialist Republic of Romania, received Antoine Jubran, minister of industry of the Syrian Arab Republic, now visiting Romania, at Neptun resort.

The Syrian minister thanked for being received and conveyed to President Nicolae Ceausescu, on behalf of President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic, a cordial salute and wishes of success in all his activities as well as wishes of progress and welfare to the Romanian people.

President Nicolae Ceausescu addressed [to] the Syrian president his warm salute and best wishes of good health and success in all his activity and peace and prosperity to the friendly Syrian people.

During the interview the sides pointed out the good relations of collaboration between Romania and Syria, pointing out the important part played for their development by the understandings reached during the summit dialogues.

At the same time the sides considered that the current potential of the two countries' economies offered conditions for expanding the Romanian-Syrian cooperation in various domains, special attention being paid to the mutually-advantageous collaboration in metallurgy, machine building and other industrial sectors as well as in the technical and scientific planes.

They pointed out that further developing the economic, technological, scientific and other collaboration between Romania and Syria was to benefit both countries and peoples, the cause of peace, international understanding and cooperation.

Participating in the call was Radu Paunescu, minister of the machine building industry.

Attending was Bahjet Dughman, Syrian charge d'affaires ad-interim in Bucharest.

Memo of Understanding Signed

JN2907194488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Bucharest—The memo of understanding between Syria and Romania was signed today in the Romanian capital, Bucharest. The memo includes the gist of what was agreed upon during the visit of Industry Minister Antoine Jubran to Romania.

Jubran held talks with Gheorghe Oprea, Romanian first deputy prime minister. The talks dealt with aspects of cooperation and the existing relations between the two countries in the industrial field.

Commander on Strategic Parity, Other Issues

JN3107150488 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1233 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Damascus, 31 Jul (SANA)—General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of the General Staff of the Army and Armed Forces, has asserted that Syria is continuing its endeavors to realize a comprehensive parity with the Zionist enemy. Strategic parity is an integrated task on all military, economic, social, and cultural levels, he added.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-BA'TH published today on the 43d anniversary of establishing the Syrian Arab Army, Gen al-Shihabi expressed saisfaction with the Syrian achievmeents in the strategic parity field.

However, he pointed out that this will not exempt all Arabs from carrying out their duty in this field. Gen al-Shaihabi warned against the Zionist enemy's expansionist schemes in the Arab homeland.

He urged the Arab nation from the Gulf to the ocean to be in genuine confrontation with the enemy and to use its military and social weapons if diplomatic efforts fail, especially since there are no glad tidings looming on the horizon regarding an international conference [for peace in the Middle East].

Replying to a question on the Palestinian camps war, Gen al-Shihabi said:

The indignation of the Arab and Palestinian masses against what the deviationist 'Arafatist clique has committed and continues to commit in the camps is clear proof that this clique, which kindled this war, was seeking to realize the objectives of its capitulationist, liquidatory plan. This plan aims to impose the Camp David accords on the Palestinian people with some changes in the symbols, names, and positions.

Gen al-Shihabi added: Through the camps war, the deviationist Palestinian right-wing tries to strike at the Palestinian people's unity as part of the scheme revealed by the document that was declared in Bassam Abu Sharif's name.

This scheme paves the way for circumventing the uprising and relinquishing both the cause and the rights by concluding a direct negotiations deal with the Zionist enemy, he said.

Gen al-Shihabi pointed out that our people's masses exposed these schemes. They are resisting them and affirming that there will be no alternative to the militant Syrian-Palestinian alliance as the only way to regain the usurped national rights.

Regarding the October [1973] war of liberation, Gen al-Shihabi said this war was one of the most important events in the history of the Arab nation's struggle. In this war, a great cultural, military, and historic achievement was realized, he added. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Soviet Prisoners 'Not Yet' Released by Mujahidin

BK0108163888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1627 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 1 (AFP)—Two Soviet prisoners said by the Afghan Resistance Alliance to have been released are not yet free, a Red Cross source reported on Monday.

A communique from the seven-party rebel alliance said earlier Monday the two soldiers had been returned to the Soviet authorities "as a goodwill gesture" through the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The rebel alliance is based in Peshawar, Pakistan.

But an ICRC official told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Monday evening he was not able to confirm the releases, although the organisation was in contact with "the people concerned."

The resistance groups have for several months been demanding direct contact with the Soviet side.

The communique said: "Our future policy as regards Soviet prisoners of war will be determined by the behaviour, positive or negative, of the Soviets."

Moscow lists 313 of its soldiers as missing in Afghanistan.

22 Kg of Explosives Seized in Kabul District

LD0108170588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] The security forces have seized a large quantity of explosive substances from extremists in the Kabul city environs.

The BIA military section reports that more than 22 kilograms [word indistinct] explosive substance, stored in the Bagrami District by an extremist band following Gulbuddin, was to be transferred into Kabul, but was discovered and seized with the cooperation of the local people.

Soviets Hit Back at Rebel Positions Near Kabul

BK0208094788 Hong Kong AFP in English 0922 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 2 (AFP)—Soviet forces launched a three-pronged attack on rebel positions around Kabul Friday as mujahidin pressure caused a panic evacuation in nearby Jalalabad, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

The large Soviet coloumns were joined by Afghan regime forces, including paramilitary guards and Secret Service Khad members, in the offensive now under way in Kabul's western Paghman, southwest Meydan Shah and northwest Shakar Darreh regions, the diplomats said.

"Shomali and the eastern marches of Kabul Province" were the scene of heavy fighting, the diplomats said.

Roads to the eastern garrison city of Jalalabad as well as the Salang highway leading to the border with the Soviet Union were closed to civilian traffic in the wake of the fighting, they added.

The diplomats said the mujahidin rocket attacks on Jalalabad had left the city "economically dead."

The families of 40 top traders including Indian businessmen had fled to Kabul "to escape internal strife" in Jalalabad, they said.

"Shopping centres are closing up and supplies are low," they added.

Resistance sources here said mujahidin rockets hit the governor's house and Khad offices in Jalalabad after the rebels had warned residents to vacate areas of the city near government installations.

The rebels apparently succeeded in their aim of harassing the city enough to cause panic and an evacuation, the sources said.

Rebel attacks on Kabul had earlier forced East European missions to cut their staff while some West European nations were also withdrawing dependents of their diplomats, they said.

The diplomats said the Soviets moved in to hit back at rebels as government troops had apparently failed to check the increasing frequency of rebel barrages on Kabul which have claimed heavy casualties in the past few weeks.

Residents of Jalalabad Begin To Evacuate

BK0208010888 Hong Kong AFP in English 2343 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 1 (AFP)—Residents of the Afghan city of Jalalabad have begun to evacuate because of rocket fire, Afghan rebel sources said Monday.

Stores were closed Sunday in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar Province in northeastern Afghanistan, after the rebels fired more than 30 rockets on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the sources in Peshawar said.

Some 25 people have been killed and wounded, according to the resistance-run Afghan Information Center.

The governor's house, barracks and offices of the Afghan secret service (Khad), a prison and a Hindu temple had been hit, the sources said.

Some Sikhs and Hindus had organized a demonstration to protest "the lack of safety," and some of them were arrested by police, they said.

Other members of these communities, who run most of the businesses in the city, have begun to flee to the countryside, they said.

Jalalabad, which protects access to the capital city of Kabul, is strongly defended by elite Afghan Army troops and several hundred Soviet advisers, diplomatic sources said.

In Samangan Province in northern Afghanistan, rebels have seized Darae Suf [Qal'eh-ye Sarkari], a district capital, and taken close to a thousand soldiers and militiamen prisoner, sources said.

During 12 days of fighting for Darae Suf, 48 government troops were killed and 23 were wounded while rebel losses reached 11 dead and 21 wounded, the sources said.

Abdul Haq, a mujahidin commander in the Kabul area, has addressed a letter to Kabul residents claiming that the mujahidin were not responsible for civilian deaths caused by rocket fire.

In the letter, he claimed that "the communists are firing rockets at the city from their bases outside the city."

He said "the rebels were not responsible for attacks, mistaken or deliberate, made by other groups" and called for people living close to military installations to leave the city.

Mujahidin Reportedly Control Vardak Province

BK0108152988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] According to a report from Afghanistan the mujahidin have achieved complete control of Vardak Province and have cut off the Kabul-Qandahar highway.

According to news agency reports the Kabul regime troops have withdrawn from the province.

Meanwhile, the mujahidin in continuing operations around Kabul and Qandahar occupied a military post and captured five tanks escorting a food caravan. Another report says the mujahidin have also occupied a military post at (Norak) and inflicted heavy losses on the Kabul regime.

According to reports the mujahidin carried out a missile attack on a border brigade in the (Chogi) region and killed five soldiers and destroyed many military vehicles.

Najibullah Decree Permits Two More Parties

BK0208125388 Hong Kong AFP in English 1238 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 2 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah has permitted the establishment of two political parties officially independent of the Kabul regime and the mujahidin, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

The Union of Ansarullah (Helpers of God) and the Fidaian Afghanistan (Solidarity Movement of the People of Afghanistan) were established under a decree signed by Mr. Najibullah last week, they said.

The Union of Ansarullah is headed by a parliamentary deputy, Haji Zafar, a Pashtun from the southwestern province of Helmand, the diplomats said.

They said his organisation had received attention from the official Kabul media for its veiled criticism of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), headed by Mr. Najibullah, and of the mujahidin resistance.

The group, whose existence was acknowledged by the media before the decree was signed last week, had also indirectly criticized the National Front, a communist umbrella organisation of peasants, students and workers, they said.

According to the Kabul media, the Union of Ansarullah had vowed "not to have anything to do with the mujahidin or the government," the diplomats said.

They said the group had called on all Afghans to follow Islam and sought supporters in provinces stretching from Helmand to Paktia in the east.

The Fidaian Afghanistan is less well known, the diplomats said, adding however that the party was sanctioned by the Soviet-backed Kabul regime. They said it officially had no links with the regime or the mujahidin.

The new groups bring to five the number of political parties in Kabul. The PDPA is divided into the Khalq (Masses) and Parcham (Flag) Parties, and the official media has reported the existence of an Islamic party.

But the new parties are the first to be set up with no official links to the Kabul regime or the mujahidin, the diplomats said.

News of the formation of the two parties follows the government's decision last week to create a 31st Afghan province, Nuristan, in the south-east.

The diplomats said the regime appeared to be trying to promote autonomous movements that would try to keep their distance from Kabul and the mujahidin.

Afghan analysts said such groups could later be projected as neutral elements capable of forming an independent government, as proposed by former U.N. envoy Diego Cordovez last month during a shuttle mission in the region.

Fundamentalist resistance groups have rejected Mr. Cordovez's proposal, which calls for a tribal assembly to be convened to decide on a neutral government and for a ceasefire to begin on September 1.

But at least two moderate rebel groups have supported the idea.

Mr. Cordovez as U.N. envoy mediated the Geneva accords signed on April 14 paving the way for a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Government Hands Protest Notes to UNGOMAP

Memorandum No 61

LD2907204188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] The Afghan Foreign Ministry's liaison office for coordination with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] reports that this evening the 61st Afghan memorandum on Pakistan's violation of the Geneva accords was handed to UNGOMAP in Kabul.

The memorandum provides details on two violations by Pakistan of Article 3, Document 2 of the Geneva accords.

The delegation is requested to investigate these obvious violations and to present the results of its findings to the Afghan authorities and to the UN secretary general's envoy.

62d Protest Note

LD3107172388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] The Afghan Foreign Ministry liaison office with UNGOMAP [United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] in Kabul reported this evening, 31 July, handing over the 62d note on two clear cases of Pakistani violation of Article 2, Document 1 of the Geneva agreement.

It has been requested that these violations be investigated and the findings turned over to the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan and the secretary general of the United Nations.

63d Protest Note

LD0108180088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry liaison office with UNGOMAP [United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] reports taht the 63d note of the Republic of Afghanistan was today handed over to the mission's Kabul office concerning eight cases of violations by Pakistan of Article 2, Document 1 of the Geneva agreements.

Precise information about the clear violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva agreement were outlined.

UNGOMAP has been requested to consider these violations by Pakistan and relate its findings to the Republic of Afghanistan and the representative of the UN secretary general.

Hikmatyar Vows To Step Up Attacks on Kabul

OW0108141688 Beijing XINHUA in English
0930 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, August 1 (XINHUA)—Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, president of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan, said that Afghan guerrillas will intensify attacks on military targets inside Kabul.

Speaking at a press conference here last night, Hikmatyar said that the Moscow-installed Kabul regime is helpless in stopping Afghan guerrillas' attacks on Kabul and has sought the help of the Soviet troops to strengthen the security belt round the city.

During the past few weeks, Afghan resistance groups have reportedly fired over 100 rockets on Kabul. In the wake of intensified attacks, foreign embassies in Kabul have either already reduced their staff members or are planning to do so.

Hikmatyar, one of the leaders of the seven-party Afghan resistance alliance, noted that the Afghan guerrillas have already appealed to the civilians in Kabul to vacate the areas near military targets.

Besides, he said, the military targets are so large that there are no chances of rockets going astray and hitting civilian targets.

The resistance leader denied that Afghan guerrillas were hitting the civilian targets in Kabul and accused the Soviet troops of launching mortar attacks.

The Russian troops, he said, have attacked the civilian targets in an attempt to justify deployment of fresh troops in the city.

He said that the resistance forces will continue their attacks on withdrawing Soviet troops as decided at a meeting of the seven-party alliance.

Referring to future arrangements on Afghanistan, Hikmatyar said that "we will never accept a government not elected by the people."

The Muslim guerrillas fighting inside Afghanistan will never allow a regime to be imposed on them by foreign powers, he added.

Hikmatyar rejected United Nations mediator on Afghanistan Diego Cordovez's latest proposal for a neutral government in Kabul.

He said that there are no "impartial" elements as suggested by Cordovez in Afghanistan and an attempt to install an "impartial" government will be tantamount to depriving the Afghan people of the rights of self-determination.

90 Percent of Country Reportedly 'Liberated'
PM0208102788 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Jul 88 pp 1, 2

[Zaki Musa report: "Afghan Leader Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Have Liberated 90 Percent of Our Territory and Will Form a Shura Council Shortly"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, chairman of the command of the seven Afghan organizations opposing the communist regime in Afghanistan, has announced that the next few months will witness the downfall of the communist Kabul government and the announcement of an independent Islamic state which will represent the will of the people in the country.

Gaylani, who also heads the National Islamic Front for the Liberation of Afghanistan [organization's title as published], told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the mujahidin are now in control of 90 percent of Afghan territory.

Gaylani held talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and briefed her on recent developments in the region.

The Afghan leader went on to say that the establishment of a shura council comprising the Afghan people's representatives will be announced shortly after it is voted on by both the mujahidin and the evacuees. The council will define the policy of a provisional Afghan government in the near future.

Sayyed Gaylani said that differences in viewpoints among the mujahidin organization "have not affected the jihad in Afghanistan." He also said: If a shura council is not established to run our affairs, the risk of a war breaking out among the various trends would increase. But we, with God's help, are determined to continue our unity in jihad in order to build an Islamic state.

The Afghan official expressed his rejection of the contents of the Geneva agreement concerning a solution to the Afghan question. But, he added that the decision concerning Soviet withdrawal from the country as a preliminary step under international guarantees is a good thing; it is the only benefit we have gained from that agreement. But what we want is the removal of the communist government.

He described Afghanistan's experience with the Soviets as bad. In his comments on reports that the Soviet forces have returned to some of the positions they had abandoned he said: I have no evidence of this, since I have been away from the region for several days for medical treatment.

Gaylani also talked about relations between the mujahidin and the Pakistani Government. He said: Relations are cordial. We thank them for their hospitality, at both the government and popular levels. They have helped us in our cause and we will never forget their favor.

He denied that the mujahidin could have been pressured to move their arms dumps from Pakistan. He pointed out that all the Afghan mujahidin moved their arms dumps before the Geneva agreement was signed. He said: We call on all friendly and Muslim states helping or wishing to help us to stop interfering in our affairs, especially when this is aimed at making some political gains.

He said that the arms available to the mujahidin are sufficient to continue fighting against the communist government until its downfall. He added that the mujahidin also obtain arms via agents within the communist government: True, superficially the people are with the regime, but their hearts and minds are with the mujahidin.

As for the countries that have given the most support to the mujahidin, both materially and morally, he cited both Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He added: They supported us sincerely and compassionately, both politically and financially. I personally consider the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia my homeland and country.

On his meeting with British Prime Minister Thatcher, the Afghan leader said that the British prime minister knew of his presence in London and asked to meet him. The meeting was a good opportunity to talk about the Afghan problem.

He added: There was agreement over most issues. I briefed Thatcher on matters she did not know a great deal about in the past.

Asked what these matters were, Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani refused to go into details. He said: I hope one day we will be able to talk about everything.

He said that the British prime minister was happy with the Soviet decision to withdraw from the country. She described it as a good thing and a good omen for an imminent end to the Afghan suffering.

Asked about the recognition by Arab and Islamic states of the provisional Afghan government, the chairman of the command of the seven mujahidin organizations said:

First of all, the government needs to gain the confidence of its citizens, namely by announcing a shura council that will define its policy and inclinations at both the domestic and foreign levels and regulate its relations with Islamic and friendly states.

After that we ask these states to recognize us. He accused the communist government in Afghanistan of opening the door for smugglers and drug traders to operate via certain channels in order to harm our jihad.

He said that the seven organizations are making tireless efforts to block the road against these people in order to preserve the reputation of the jihad maintained by the mujahidin to topple the communist government in the country.

India

Pakistan Implicated in Gandhi Assassination Plot

BK0208085088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Members from both the ruling and opposition benches in the Rajya Sabha today expressed serious concern over the involvement of Pakistan in the reported plot to assassinate the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the home minister, Mr Buta Singh.

Soon after the question hour almost all the ruling party members were on their feet to draw the attention of the government to THE TIMES OF INDIA report which gave a detailed account about seizure of secret documents from Amritsar.

The newspaper report reveals the involvement of Pakistan and the close connection between the terrorist groups and Pakistan. It also says that the panthic [Sikh religious] committee operating from Pakistan had sent instructions to its surrogates in the Golden Temple to plan for the assassination of Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mr Buta Singh.

The matter was raised through a special mention by Mr A.G. Kulkarni, Congress-I, who expressed serious concern over the report and involvement of Pakistan in the plot.

Several ruling party members and a few opposition members who associated themselves with the special mention urged the government to take steps to strengthen the security of the prime minister and other leaders.

They demanded a comprehensive statement from the home minister and also a discussion on the subject.

The deputy chairman, Mrs Pratibha Patil, said the matter is of serious concern to all and the government must come out with a comprehensive statement.

The minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, who was present in the house, assured the members that a comprehensive statement will be made on the subject in the afternoon.

In the Lok Sabha also, soon after the question hour, almost all the ruling party members were on their feet to draw the attention of the speaker to the newspaper report.

The speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, asked Mr R.L. Bhatia to speak on the matter. Mr Bhatia expressed concern over the report and the speaker then asked him to give a notice so that the home minister could be asked to make a statement before discussion is allowed.

Minister on Pakistan's Involvement in Punjab

BK0208091488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was informed today that the action plan against the terrorists in Punjab has resulted in considerable reduction in flow of arms and ammunition from across the border.

Sharing concern of members from both sides of the house over the killings of innocent persons by terrorists, the minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, expressed the hope that the action plan when fully completed will considerably curb the terrorist activities.

He said the plan includes the erection of a fence along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab. Based on this experience, the question of putting up a fence in the Rajasthan and Jammu sectors will also be considered.

Referring to the reports of Pakistan's involvement in terrorist activities, Mr Chidamabarm said clinching evidence has been brought to the notice of the Pakistan Government.

Asked about the progress of the proposed joint patrolling by India and Pakistan along the border, the minister said Pakistan is now retreating from this.

The minister admitted that the action plan is not a substitute for political solution to the Punjab problem. He said necessary conditions must be created for this.

Gandhi's Upcoming Visit to China Examined

BK0108134388 Delhi PATRIOT in English
22 Jul 88 p 4

[Article by Cecil Victor: "Politico-Military Nuances of PM's China Visit"]

[Text] If India can make a breakthrough in relations with China, it would be a turning-point in the history of the subcontinent. But a breakthrough depends on what both countries expect in give and take and the final outcome must be seen to be equitable.

Otherwise a host of new problems are going to confront the future leaders of India.

The expectation appears to be that by raising the level of the dialogue with China to the political, i.e. the Prime Ministerial level, results will perhaps be more forthcoming than they have been at the officials level. That is possible only if Mr Rajiv Gandhi is about to accept in some large measure what the Chinese have been demanding of India from as long ago as the 50's.

Are the Chinese prepared to accept anything less is not obvious from the eight rounds of official level talks that have already been held between the two countries?

And have Chinese intents and purposes changed significantly since the last time that the India-China dialogue was raised to the political level—when Foreign Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee went to Beijing in February, 1979, and had to leave posthaste because China decided to attack Vietnam?

If anything the scenario is dangerously similar to 1979 when Vietnam was perceived to be undercutting Chinese influence in the region by its military action in Kampuchea which in turn was a major cog in the Chinese grand design of domination of South-East Asia.

Today, China is engaged in implementing a policy of westwards expansion of its influence into the Gulf, and Aksai Chin (a critical pawn in the game), Pakistan, Pak-occupied Kashmir and the Karakoram Highway each are intertwined in this grand strategy.

Will it allow anything to either interfere with or undermine that strategy is impossible to believe. One can only be sure that anything or any nation seeking to interfere with the process will be swiftly dealt with as was Vietnam for upsetting the Chinese applecart in South-East Asia.

That not even the U.S. which is a partner in the South Asian strategic consensus with Pakistan, is not allowed to interfere or dictate the logic of China's Gulf policy should be an indicator of the Chinese mood and method.

In the bilateral dialogue, the Chinese leaders have in recent times indicated that they do not expect anything more from the political-level discussions than an enunciation of principles for the settlement of the border dispute.

The basic underpinning of these principles would be the scrapping by India of the McMahon Line as the basis for a boundary settlement with China. Can Mr Rajiv Gandhi abandon that yardstick for the nebulous quagmire of "customary lines" given China's penchant to rewrite history at will or seeking to impose on her neighbours the same imperialistic compulsions that it is trying to make it appear it is rejecting by its objections to the British drawn McMahon Line?

The Chinese have been closely studying the Prime Minister's options and they have come to the conclusion that internal developments are so shaping up that he would be forced to try and forge rapprochement with Beijing.

The several insurgencies in Punjab, Darjeeling, the northeast and Tripura are seen to be debilitating factors. Taken in conjunction with this the Sri Lanka operation by the Indian Peace Keeping Force is seen to be a factor which has reduced India's military options.

However, read in its own stark nakedness is the body of literature produced by retired Army officers advocating a settlement with China on the basis of relinquishing claims to Aksai Chin where, they quote Jawaharlal Nehru, "not a blade of grass grows."

The new military theorists once again prefer to use the quote to ignore the fact that Nehru had actually laid plans to defend that bald and inhospitable territory because, having failed to win over China by bhai-bhai [policy of calling each other brothers], he saw why Mao Tsedong should covet that inhospitable terrain.

By 1962 the Chinese had been watching with interest the growing divergence between Nehru's forward policy and the general's sulk against alleged political interference in the military. The Chinese struck in the North West Frontier Province (now Arunachal Pradesh) and the Indian Army hardly put up any resistance.

In any case the pressure from an important segment of the Indian strategic milieu to come to terms with China is hardly congenial to bargaining. It is not without calculation that Beijing has now indicated that it would want some concessions in the eastern sector as well—a departure from the earlier package where it was understood that India would relinquish claims to Aksai Chin and China would accept the McMahon Line as the boundary in the east.

What China is involved in at the moment is a clearing of the deck to make for elbow-room to manoeuvre its strategy for the 1990s and there is a familiar dictatorial

ring to the methodology it has adopted. It lays down the parameters and expects its neighbours to adhere to them if they want peace in the region.

Thus in relation to the Soviet Union it laid down three conditions: withdrawal from Afganistan; pressure on Vietnam to withdraw from Kampuchea and a reduction of Soviet troops along the Chinese border. It has refused to reopen a dialogue with Vietnam and has, instead, adopted a hectoring attitude in the Pacific seaboard. With India too there are veiled threats that India's attempts to patrol what it claims to be its territory has raised "hidden dangers".

Mr Rajiv Gandhi's dilemma is how to steer a course which will not come into direct conflict with China's westwards expansion of influence into the Gulf region.

Also, if India is to achieve its own destiny and if in the attainment of it conflict with Chinese interests becomes inevitable, he must know how to handle the fallout given the intertwined nature of the US-Pak-China strategic consensus within which the Pak-China special relations have, if anything, become more important given China's modus vivendi with Iran.

Does India knuckle under these growing external compulsions and accept a status quo in which her territory, grabbed by aggression, will remain in the hands of the aggressors? That is hardly the way to attain respectability in the comity of nations.

Conversely, even while pursuing the path of a negotiated settlement of border disputes, India should be able to handle the major politico-military operations like the externally-supported Khalistani terrorism in Punjab and the Pakistani military encroachment in Siachen without investing in these adventures legitimately by negotiating with Pakistan.

The expectation that the military dictatorship there, whose existence depends on stirring trouble with neighbours as in Afghanistan, will allow itself to be wooed into sanity has already been belied. This latter strategy depends on the internal political milieu which, in recent times, is seen to be not totally within the control of the Prime Minister. That is the impression our neighbours give of developments in India. Such a perception, it must be reiterated, does not give room for bargaining.

Before Mr Rajiv Gandhi leaves for Beijing, therefore, he should be in a position to let our neighbours know that the effects of external interference in Punjab have been largely neutralised. The military balance and "a choice of options", as the erstwhile Pakistan Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo put it, should once again be restored.

That can happen only if the Sri Lanka operations are brought to a successful conclusion soon by either neutralising the LTTE or forcing its leaders to the negotiating table.

100,000 Tamils March in Madras for Cease-Fire

BK2907154488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1512 GMT 29 Jul 88

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] Madras, India, July 29 (AFP)—Thousands of Tamils screaming "Don't kill, don't kill" marched through the streets of this southern city Friday demanding a ceasefire by Indian troops in the war against Sri Lankan Tamil rebels.

An estimated 100,000 members of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), India's leading Tamil party, wound their way from the busy commercial centre to a park in a massive show of strength, witnesses said.

The march came on the first anniversary of an Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord which sought to end a Tamil rebel campaign for a homeland called Eelam.

Hundreds of women joined the march which observers said was one of the largest related to the Sri Lankan Tamil problem in Madras, capital of southern Tamil Nadu State which is home to more than 55 million Indian Tamils.

Most marchers were dressed in black and red, the DMK Party colours.

Friday's march was to demand a ceasefire by the 52,000 Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka and negotiations between New Delhi and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a DMK leader said.

"There should be an immediate ceasefire," A. Selvaraj, said, adding that the LTTE and New Delhi should negotiate a troop withdrawal from Sri Lanka.

Leading the march in an open jeep was Muthuvel Karunanidhi, a former Tamil Nadu chief minister and leader of the DMK, which has traditionally supported the Sri Lankan Tamil rebel campaign.

Marchers shouted "Don't kill, dont kill, don't kill Eelam Tamils" as the procession accompanied by a few hundred scooter taxis, motorcycles and scooters weaved its way through the city centre paralysing traffic for several hours.

No violence was reported, although some young party activists who tried to block traffic were chased away by policemen.

A DMK spokesman said demonstrations and public meetings to condemn India's military role in Sri Lanka had been organised at several places in the coastal state. Four other minor political parties also organised similar protests.

Almost all Tamil parties in India have strongly condemned an offensive launched by Indian troops on October 10 to disarm the LTTE after the rebel group repudiated the July 29, 1987 peace accord and refused to lay down arms.

Some 540 Indian soldiers and more than 2,000 suspected LTTE guerrillas have died in the offensive.

Also Friday, about 70 Tamils staged a day-long hunger strike in Madras to demand that India withdraw its troops from the island nation. "We want the troops to come out and the government to declare an immediate ceasefire," said Jagavira Pandian of the Tamil Nadu State unit of the Jan Morcha (People's Forum) Party, which organised the fast.

A Sri Lankan human rights activist said Friday that the accord had failed to bring peace to his country and added that the only solution lay in the creation of an Eelam homeland.

"The accord basically never took off," said S. Chandrahasan of the organisation for the protection of Tamils of Eelam from genocide. "We are observing its death anniversary today."

One of the five Tamil militant groups which has accepted the accord said in another statement that India should return the arms it has surrendered since New Delhi had failed to protect its cadres from LTTE attacks.

The Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front said more than 50 of its members had been killed by the LTTE since the accord was signed.

"The expected peace and protection from the accord has not been ensured, we request that the arms (we) surrendered be returned," it said.

Police asked all LTTE members living here to stay indoors Friday, an LTTE spokesman said.

He did not give any reason for the order, and police officials were not available for comment.

Tamil Nadu, lying opposite Sri Lanka, was used as a sanctuary by Tamil rebels during their campaign before the accord was signed.

Assam Tax Official Killed by Gunmen 1 Aug

BK0208034088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] In Assam, an assistant commissioner of taxes, Mr R.C. Pal, was shot dead by some unidentified gunmen at Parbatia area of Tinsukhia town yesterday. According to police, the assailants entered the house and opened fire, killing him on the spot.

In another incident in the evening, some unidentified miscreants hurled a powerful bomb inside a shop at a busy market area in Nowgong town. Three persons were seriously injured.

Five extremists of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, including a self-styled captain, were arrested at (Kongdai) in Senapatti District of Manipur on Sunday. According to official sources, the arrests followed a combing operation in the entire area. Some ammunition was also recovered from them.

2 Bomb Explosions in Srinagar Noted; No Injuries

BK0108085788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Security measures have been tightened in Srinagar following 2 bomb explosions last night. The first explosion occurred in the Srinagar Club. The second blast took place at the central telegraph office. However, there is no report of any loss of life.

Violence in Punjab State Continues

'Terrorists' Kill 5

BK3107080288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists gunned down 5 persons in separate incidents last night. In Amritsar District, three terrorists entered a house in Thathian village and opened indiscriminate fire, killing three members of a family.

In Ferozepur District, two terrorists opened fire at some farmers working in a field in village Sodinagar, killing two of them on the spot.

2 'Terrorists' Killed

BK3107161888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, five persons and two terrorists have been killed in separate incidents since last night. Some terrorists opened fire in a house in Amritsar District, killing three members of a family. In Ferozepore District, two farmers working in the field were similarly killed.

In an encounter in Patiala District, early this morning two terrorists were killed. Two police officials were seriously injured. The encounter followed when a police patrol was attacked by terrorists. The patrol party chased them and, in the ensuing encounter, both the terrorists were killed.

6 Killed by 'Terrorists'

BK0108160688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, six persons have been gunned down by terrorists since last night. Three members of a family were killed at village Pundol of Amritsar District and a woman was shot dead in village Amarkot. One farmer was killed in Jullundur District and another in Gurdaspur District.

In another incident in Amritsar District, the sarpanch [village head man] of a village, Bhuli Karimpur, shot dead two terrorists early this morning when they demanded 2 lakh rupees at gun point. The sarpanch went inside on the pretext of bringing the money and returned with his revolver and shot dead the terrorists.

17 'Terrorists' Arrested

BK0208035088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, 17 terrorists were arrested following raids on their hideouts in Jaitu, Baghapurana, and Faridkot areas yesterday. The Faridkot District police chief told our correspondent that six of them are hard-core terrorists.

Twenty-seven guns and some ammunition were recovered from them. These include three AK-47 Chinese assault rifles, two French-made submachine guns, eight foreign-made revolvers, and four single-barrel guns.

The police chief said they were planning to strike at some places to create panic. They were responsible for a number of terrorist crimes in Faridkot, Ferozepore, and Bhatinda Districts.

The Jammu and Kashmir authorities have sounded a general alert throughout the state against possible recurrence of terrorist acts. This follows two bomb explosions in Srinagar on Sunday.

The measure was taken after a top-level review of the situation in the state in the light of the explosions. A special team of high police officials has been constituted to prevent the infiltration of terrorists from Punjab into Jammu and Kashmir. Checkpoints have also further been strengthened.

INSAT-IC Satellite's Solar Power Pack Fails

BK0108031288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] The INSAT-IC has developed a snag. There has been a breakdown in one of its solar power packs since Friday [29 July]. According to the Indian Space Research Organization, scientists are now analyzing the problem after placing the spacecraft in the sun-equilibrium configuration.

This position will allow the scientists to make a detailed analysis of the problem. Corrective measures will be taken after analyzing the results. This will take about 4 to 5 days. Detailed study of the payloads on board the craft has been temporarily suspended.

INSAT-1C was launched from Kourou Islands in French Guiana on the 22d of last month.

Bill To Stop Postal Interceptions Rejected

BK3007062088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] The Rajya Sabha has rejected a private member's bill seeking to amend the Indian Telegraph Act and Indian Post Office Act to remove the powers of the Center and the state governments to intercept messages and postal articles.

The bill was rejected yesterday by 40 votes against 24 in favor. It was moved by Mr V. Gopalasamy, DMK. Replying to the debate, Mr Gopalasamy said the practice of interception of messages and postal articles is antidemocratic.

Earlier, in his brief intervention, the minister of state for communication, Mr Giridhar Gomango, said the government gives high regard to basic principles of freedom. He assured the House that there will be no harassment of law-abiding citizens.

Briefs

New Air Chief

Air Marshal S.K. Mehra today took over as the new chief of air staff. He succeeds Air Chief Marshal D.A. Lafontaine, who retired after 38 years of distinguished service. [Excerpt] [*BK3107101888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Jul 88*]

AIDS Cases Identified

The government today ruled out the setting up of rehabilitation centers for the patients with positive indications of AIDS disease. The health minister, Mr Motilal Vora, said the government will do everything possible to contain it. He said 40 surveillance centers all over the country have identified over 127,000 suspected cases. Of these, 379 are positive cases. There are four referral

centers for treatment. Blood banks have been asked to take more care on accepting blood of professional donors, considered one of the carriers of the disease. [Excerpts] [*BK0108080388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 1 Aug 88*]

Iran

Velayati on 'Agreement' With Secretary General

LD0208124388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Report on sixth round of talks between Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in New York on 2 August by unidentified correspondent—recorded]

[Text] Dr Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, early this morning concluded the sixth round of his discussions with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar concerning the technical details of Resolution No 598 and the secretary general's executive plan for the resolution.

After the meeting the foreign minister announced: At the moment, agreement and understanding exists between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the UN secretary general on nearly all the technical issues relating to the resolution.

He emphasized that at present all members of the Security Council and a large majority of UN members support the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran and reject Iraq's devious tactics in creating obstacles in the path of implementing the resolution. Today the world knows that the Islamic Republic is in the right, and is not the side preventing cooperation with the secretary general and with the UN. It may not be inappropriate to regard Iraq as being in political isolation.

Before meeting with the secretary general, Dr Velayati also had a meeting with the president of the Security Council, now headed by the Chinese delegation as of yesterday. In view of the importance and sensitivity of the Security Council's work at the present juncture and the need for the efforts of the Security Council president in moving things forward, Mr Velayati referred to the council's duties vis-a-vis the violation of Security Council Resolution No 612 on chemical weapons.

On the basis of the secretary general's report which presented Iraq as the side responsible for using chemical weapons, the foreign minister emphasized the need to punish the Iraqi regime by banning the sale of chemicals to that regime.

Meanwhile, last night diplomatic sources at the UN announced that pressure on Iraq to accept a cease-fire, and to implement Resolution No 598 and cooperate with the secretary general has greatly intensified. After receiving the report of the UN military team, the secretary general this week will announce the D-Day for the start of the cease-fire.

UN Notes Repeated Iraqi Use of Chemical Weapons

LD0208123488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] The UN specialist team which traveled to Iran and Iraq to investigate the use of chemical weapons stressed in their report yesterday that the Iraqi forces have repeatedly used chemical bombs against Iranian forces and positions.

According to a report by IRNA's correspondent from New York, the UN report's concluding section, which was compiled in Iran, states that tests which have been carried out on fragments in the Hamid region situated in southwest Ahvaz show that chemical weapons have been used against Iranian positions. The UN team's report says that the bombs used in recent attacks are similar to those previously reported on by UN teams in 1984, 1986, and 1987 respectively.

The UN team has announced that the substance used in recent Iraqi attacks is mustard gas, adding that other substances have also been used which cannot be verified because the effects of these chemical substances disappear rapidly.

The report stresses that in order to carry out a timely investigation of the use of chemical weapons, the United Nations must guarantee the speedy dispatch of specialist teams to the areas where chemical weapons have reportedly been used. Another part of this report states that the team has been able to verify, without any doubt, that Iranian soldiers were affected by mustard gas in the period between 21 May-21 June 1988.

Some of the visible effects of mustard gas, which could be seen in those affected, are darkening of the skin, blisters, skin burns, and burning the respiratory system.

Furthermore, the brain of the one of the martyred victims was found to be burned.

In their letter to the secretary general, the specialist team expressed their worry and concern over the continued extensive use of chemical weapons against Iranian forces, despite requests by the secretary general and the Security Council. The UN team also warns about the routine use of chemical weapons in a conventional war.

UN Secretary General Mr Perez de Cuellar, has written a memorandum which quotes the UN team's report and stresses that the use of chemical weapons against Iranian forces, despite the ban imposed by the Geneva Convention, still continues and has become even more widespread.

The UN specialist team in another report, clearly has not accepted any of the Iraqi claims and does not mention anything in connection with the use of chemical weapons by Iran.

IRNA Cites Nuremberg Treaty

LD0108163488 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 1 Aug 88

["West Shares Burden of Iraq's Grisly Chemical Crimes"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, Aug. 1, IRNA—As the U.N. publishes its sixth report on the Iraqi regime's use of poison gases in its war against Iran, the extent of the deployment of such outlawed weapons is seen as one of the indelible blots that will remain over Ba'thist Baghdad's conduct on the battlefield.

As in previous reports dating from 1984, the Security Council is expected to make only a token protest even though a worldwide ban on using chemical weapons has been in force for over 60 years and could also be covered in a series of international laws on war conduct.

Article 47 of the 4th Hague Convention in 1907 stipulates that states are responsible for all actions committed by their Armed Forces. Moreover laws appertaining to international crimes were also enforced after World War Two to allow the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials to function.

The Iraqi regime already violated the Hague Convention by invading Islamic Iran in 1980 and Article Six of the Nuremberg Treaty in its definitions of war crimes and crimes against humanity can certainly be applied to Iraq's illicit use of chemical weapons.

According to Articles 49, 53, 55 and 56 of the Geneva Convention as well as Articles 35, 42, 45, 48, 51, 53, 54, 56, 57, 59 63 and 76 of the additional protocols of 1977 not only does Iraq's indiscriminate bombing of civilians deserves condemnation but equally censurable is its wanton use of chemicals in the process.

The latest U.N. report gives further evidence to the arguments of military analysts that chemical weapons played a strategic part in Iraq's recent attacks against Iran, and according to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, has left a "grisly battlefield legacy" for the Ba'thist regime.

The American paper Monday quoted former U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defence, Douglas Feith, who has specialised in chemical weapons negotiations, that "Western nations must share the blame" for Iraq's increasing use of toxic gases.

He said the Iraqis are quite aware that world silence means the "political risk is zero" for deploying the outlawed poison gases.

The daily cited a prime example of the U.S. in its reaction when it had "upgraded relations with Baghdad in 1984, even though it knew Iraq had introduced these weapons to the fight."

Velayati Receives Message From PRC Counterpart

LD0108174888 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, August 1, IRNA—Chinese Ambassador Wang Benzuo met Foreign Ministry deputy for Asia-Oceania affairs Javad Mansuri here today and submitted a message for Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati from his Chinese counterpart.

In his message, the Chinese minister welcoming Islamic Iran's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598 has announced Beijing's support for the U.N. secretary general's efforts to implement the resolution.

He also stressed that foreign powers' interference will not make the region secure, and Persian Gulf issues should be solved by the littoral states themselves.

The Chinese foreign minister has expressed hope that mutual ties will further expand.

Envoy to GDR Delivers Velayati Message

LD3007223488 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to the German Democratic Republic (GDR) Hamid Asefi met with GDR Deputy Foreign Minister Werner Krolikowski Friday and conveyed to him a verbal message from Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati dealing with U.N. Resolution 598.

Krolikowski told Asefi that U.N. Resolution 598 seems to be the only way to end the war, and that efforts should be made to strengthen the hands of U.S. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar for implementing the resolution.

The GDR deputy foreign minister said that his country welcomes and attaches great importance to the Islamic Republic's acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598, and condemns the recent encroachment on Iranian territory. He also announced his country's preparedness to actively take part in the reconstruction of Iran.

He also said the forthcoming visit to Tehran by a top-level GDR political delegation including the vice president and parliamentary vice speaker indicates that great importance his country attaches to its cooperation with the Islamic Republic.

Larijani Comments on UK Relations, Hostages
LD0108155288 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1518 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug 1 (TANJUG)—Iran accepts the renewal of ties with Great Britain on the internal affairs of the other country, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani said in today's interview to the TEHRAN TIMES.

He denied reports that he had met in Bahrain in the capacity of Foreign Ministry official with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, but added that Tehran and London "will take steps for the promotion of mutual relations."

Larijani said that one should not expect Iran to take "direct action" to liberate the British hostages in Beirut. Adding that this is Lebanon's internal affair, he did not exclude the possibility that "Iran could use its ideological influence to solve the problem of the British hostages."

Asked about prospects for the release of "British spy" Roger Cooper from an Iranian prison, the Iranian deputy foreign minister said that this is a concern of juducial organs, although "efforts will be made to remove obstacles to the promotion of relations between Iran and Great Britain."

Great Britain closed its embassy in Tehran after the U.S. Embassy in Iran was taken over at the beginning of the 1979 revolution.

Larijani said that Tehran is also ready for direct talks with Baghdad "at the time and place which the U.N. secretary-general considers useful for the implementation of UN Security Resolution 598."

Mo'ayeri To Deliver Message to Turkey's Ozal
LD3107172088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Political Affairs Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri left for Ankara this morning to deliver a message from our prime minister to Turgut Ozal and also to hold talks and exchange views about the latest regional political developments and bilateral relations.

He will, also be visiting Greece and Algeria to deliver messages from the president and the prime minister to authorities there.

It should be noted that Algeria is currently a member of the UN Security Council and Greece now has the presidency of the EEC Council of Ministers.

Nation Urged To Demonstrate Against 'Arrogance'
LD0108141088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Tomorrow is the day to create a new epic in the history of Iran. Tomorrow is the day for the renewed glorification of the will of a nation which, relying on exalted God, wants to live in freedom, not bowing down before foreigners, and to make freedom the main charter of its life. Tomorrow is the day to demonstrate the reality of the unconquerable steel fortress of an Iranian human being's will.

Tomorrow is the day when it will once again become clear that the enemy's propaganda war against Iran and Islam, just as imperialism and reaction's economic, military, and political war against Iran's Islamic Revolution, has only strengthened our nation's determination and tempered our nation's steel will.

Tomorrow is the day to expose imperialist conspiracies. Tomorrow is the day to expose the true face of imperialist propaganda. The imperialists, who were until yesterday deafening the world by banging on their hollow peace-loving drum and ruining Iran's sense of security as a result of the Zionist Saddam regime's conspiracies against our being understood by world public opinion, are stupidly blowing into their propaganda horn today and pretending that whatever Iraq has done up to now has not been on the basis of imperialism's guidance and leadership.

In attempting to escape the grip of justice and to break the framework of Resolution No 598, the responsibility of the warmongering policy of the Iraqi regime does not fall on the true allies of the Zionist Iraqi regime in its attack against our Islamic homeland. It is as if the imperialists imagine that the world's nations do not understand the true meaning of their political and propaganda ploys.

It is as though when a country, which has armed the Iraqi regime to the teeth with various weapons, including chemical weapons, starts speaking of its desire to establish positive relations, the people of the world will be convinced that the aggressor Iraqi regime's supporters were in principle unaware of the (?nature) of that regime's aggression and that they had absolutely no responsibility for those aggressions. It is as though, were the aggression to be repeated, the world would accept the claims of neutrality of the supporters of aggression and crime. What transparant thinking!

The imperialists must know that the political-propaganda maneuvers of the arrogant powers expose only themselves, and do not deceive other nations. They must know that the reason behind this revolutionary clear-sightedness is our nation's revolutionary wisdom, intelligence, and knowledge. Our nation, which is, day and night, bombarded with propaganda by foreign radios becomes more imbued with revolutionary anger against

global arrogance. Moreover, our nation places greater faith each day in the purity of the revolutionary road and in the careful supervision of the revolution's leader.

It places faith in the fact that the path of sincerity, honesty, and divine faith and trust is the path to victory and salvation and that the path of arrogance, a path of lies and deceits and of savagery and and brutality, is the path of deception. Finally, the acceptance of the arrogant powers' policies leads to the creation of cancerous tumors, the regimes ruling Palestine and South Africa being two clear examples.

Tomorrow is the day of the glorification of steadfastness and of the crystalization of the victory of blood over the sword and of the open realization of the victory of faith over iron. [passage omitted]. Tomorrow is the day to declare that, even if the Zionist enemy attacks Iran 10 more times as it did in September 1980, Iran is standing as firm and steady as ever and will defend its existence even when the hand of arrogance, with all its strength, is showing out of Saddam's sleeve.

Rally Marks Cease-Fire Acceptance, Shi'a Feast
LD0208101288 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA—What Tehran, the capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran is witnessing this morning could only be reminscent of what happened on February 1, 1979 when Iran's great leader-in-exile returned home and received so warm and massive a welcome that bewildered the world, including foes and friends.

On that day the Muslim and revolutionary people from throughout the country had come to the capital to join the Tehranis in their magnificent welcome to the imam, and today too history is once again repeated to mark another occasion—"to renew allegiance to the imam" and thank him for his wise decision in accepting the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which will, God willing, bring back peace and stability to the Persian Gulf region.

Today's rally has been called for by Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, the imam's successor and the future leader of the Islamic Revolution, following Imam Khomeyni's acceptance of the U.N. resolution which decision was described by Ayatollah Montazeri in a message to the nation as one merely serving "the cause of God and the interests of Islam, the revolution and the Iranian people."

The grand rally today coincides with the Islamic Shi'ite feast of 'Id al-Ghadir (the day Prophet Muhammad, SAW, chose Imam 'Ali, A.S. as his successor).

Since the early hours of today, large groups of people, including relatives of martyrs, POW's and those missing in action, carrying pictures of their loved ones, as well as members of the armed forces, women and students, began marching towards the Azadi (Freedom) Square where they accorded the founder of the Islamic Republic a real warm welcome nine years ago.

Today's rally was another manifestation of unity and solidarity of Iran's Muslim people as well as their firm resolve to obey their leader and protect their Islamic values against global arrogance.

In addition to "Death to America" and "Death to Monafeqin (MKO)" the following are some of the slogans chanted in today's rally in support of Imam Khomeyni:

"The spirit of God (Ruhollah) is our religious authority,"

"His stance is approved by us,"

"The spirit of God (Ruhollah) is the imam of our ummah,"

"His leadership is the basis of our unity,"

"We will not give up support for imam even if we were all killed,:

"We are all your soldiers Khomeyni, ready to hear your orders Khomeyni."

Among those participating in the rally are advocates of the Iraqi opposition group known as Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) who carried placards and pictures of their martyrs and shouted slogans in Arabic against Saddam Husayn and in support for Imam Khomeyni.

Throughout the course of the rally people were served cold water and sherbat (kind of soft and sweet drink) to enable them resist the hot summer sun. Also helicopters of Havaniruz (Army Aviation Service) dropped flowers on the head of the demonstrators to welcome them.

The active presence of religious minorities, including Assyrians, Zoroastrians and Jews, was also eye-catching. They also carried their own placards and shouted slogans in support of Iran's stance in accepting the U.N. Resolution 598.

The ceremony at Azadi Square began at 09:40 hours (06:10 GMT) with recitation of verses from the Holy Koran. A number of political and military officials were also in attendance. Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was among the ranking officials who were seen among the demonstrators while participating in the (?rally). Khamene'i could not attend because he went to the war front following the mass mobilization to repulse Iraq's renewed aggression against Iran.

Later a nine-point resolution was read renewing the Iranian people's allegiance to the imam.

The following are the main points of the resolution:

—O imam, we vow to stay beside you until our last breath and unconditionally obey your orders.

—We also recognize Ayatollah Montazeri as your revered successor and obey his orders.

—We will defend the great achievements of the Islamic Revolution and will not tolerate the defeat of the revolution even for a moment.

—We warn the enemies and the malevolent persons that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not compromise with any of the oppressive and aggressive powers of the East and the West, particularly with the expansionist U.S. and aggressor USSR, on its Islamic ideals as well as the principles of the revolution, including its "Neither East nor West" policy.

—O imam, as you said our war is a war of honor and dignity, a war of idelogy and belief, a war of justice vs falsehood, a war of istiza'af (oppressed) vs istikbar (oppression), and it recognizes no geography. We are standing beside you until the accomplishment of your sublime goals and will strongly suppress the enemies of the Islamic Revolution.

—And now that with Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598, the war-mongering enemy has unveiled its ugly face despite its peace claims, we hereby declare our support for the measures and activities of our political representatives within the framework of the said resolution in order to achieve a lasting peace, and at the same time keep our revolutionary vigilance and consider it our Islamic duty and divine obligation to fill the war fronts for holy defense.

(Pointing to last year's massacre in Mecca of Iranian Hajj pilgrims, it said):

—We will take revenge of the U.S. and Al Sa'ud at appropriate time.

—We declare that we will be beside you until the elimination of the decayed roots of Zionism, capitalism and communism and will not rest calm until eradication of the oppressive nature of arrogant systems particularly "the Great Satan" and the criminal U.S. which so savagely and ruthlessly massacred so many innocent passengers of the Iranian Airbus, as well as the aggressor USSR.

—O imam, you have always reminded the Islamic world of the danger of this cancerous tumor (Israel) since its inception and have always urged the world of Islam for an all-out mobilization against Israel so that today, the children of Palestine inspired by the Islamic Republic's "Neither East nor West" dictum, are dealing their crushing blows on the Zionist usurpers. We hope the Muslim world, under your leadership, will liberate the dear Qods (Jerusalem) from the blood-stained claws of the occupying regime (of Israel).

—We reiterate our support for the officials of the Islamic Republic who have themselves tasted the bitterness of hunger and poverty, and request them not to give in adherence to the principles of Islam and the imam's orders at any cost and spare no efforts towards the full realisation of the imam's divine messages, and rest assured that the Muslim people of Iran will be with them to achieve this.

In conclusion, the resolution strongly lashed out at the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation (MKO) members for their subservience to the Baghdad regime and their treacheries against the Iranian people and officials. It urged Iran's judicial officials to bring these "hypocrites" to justice and put a end to their vicious acts against the people of Iran for ever.

Civil Aviation Team Briefed on Airbus Incident

LD3107153788 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA—A team from the international civil aviation organization (ICAO), currently here to probe the U.S. crime of shooting down an Iranian jet-liner, was briefed by officials of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization on details of the savage U.S. attack.

The cruiser USS Vincennes fired two missiles at the regular Iran Air flight 655 on July 3, killing all 290 passengers on board. The Airbus A-300 en route to Dubayy was missile-attacked minutes after its take off from Bandar-e 'Abbas.

At the meeting held Saturday the concerned Iranian officials presented necessary documents to the ICAO team.

The ICAO five-man delegation arrived here Friday morning to investigate Washington's unmanly shooting down of the passenger plane, which was flying through the 20 mile wide commercial corridor A-59 and crashed near Hengam Island.

The probe team today listened to a transcription of conversation between the pilot of the ill-fated airbus and Bandar-e 'Abbas, Tehran and Dubayy control towers recorded minutes before the catastrophe.

The team later visited Civil Aviation Control Center and lauded the efforts of the concerned personnel.

Mohtashemi Lauds Efforts in Liberating Ilam

LD0108112988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Interior Minister Mohtashemi, while visiting the liberated areas in the provinces of Ilam and Bakhtaran, gave an an interview to an IRNA correspondent. He referred to the determining role of the region's people and tribes in repelling the enemy's and the mercenary hypocrites' aggression, saying:

The selfless people of Gilan-e Gharb, Eslamabad, the Province of Ilam, and the regional tribes rose up to confront the enemy attack under the most difficult conditions.

Assisted by the brave fast-flyers of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces' air units, by the Islamic Revolution Committee's Guards who had rushed to the region from all parts of the country, and by the very timely actions of the IRGC and the selfless mobilization forces, they inflicted the most severe defeat on the Ba'thist enemy and on the mercenary hypocrites. They have given us the gift of the country's independence and territorial integrity.

More on Mohtashemi's Remarks

LD0108172888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Interior Minister Mohtashemi, who travelled to the Bakhtaran Province today, gave an interview there in which he said: The great victorious Marsad operations which were carried out following the aggression of the Zionist enemy and mercenary and hypocrite elements, who were deploying advanced weapons on a vast scale against the territory of the Islamic Republic, brought another humiliating defeat for the Zionist Iraqi regime and those affiliated with global arrogance.

He added that the acceptance of Resolution No 598 by the Islamic Republic of Iran and following that, the fresh aggressions of the Zionist Iraqi regime against the territory of our country, proved to everyone that the peace-seeking claims of Saddam and of the Ba'thist Party are lies. It is the duty of international organizations and of different countries in the world to (?denounce) that country through a joint declaration so that it will never think of committing further aggressions.

Referring to the presence of the hypocrites alongside the Zionist Iraqi forces, Mohtashemi added: In Eslamabad-e Gharb, women and men, the young and the old went to war against the hypocrites armed with sticks and stones and simple weapons. The hypocrites showed no mercy toward these innocent people and machine-gunned a number of them.

The interior minister noted the brave deeds of Iran's Gendarmerie in its confrontation with the Zionist Iraqi army and added: The self-sacrificing personnel of the Ilam and Bakhtaran Provinces held out to the very last and delivered heavy blows to the rotten body of the Ba'thist regime and the mercenaries affiliated with global arrogance.

In conclusion, he praised the courageous deeds of Brigadier General and martyr (Saravand-Ruhi), commander of the Gendarmerie regiment of Ilam Province. He said that with the assistance of the Gendarmerie and popular forces, he was able to purge Ilam Province from the filthy presence of the Iraqi aggressor through the selfless loss of his own life.

IRGC Minister Rafiqdust on New Missiles

LD3107171488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] The IRGC minister announced the successful outcome of the design and manufacture of surface-to-surface missiles with a 160-km range.

According to the Central News Unit, IRGC Minister Rafiqdust stated in an interview: A competition to design and manufacture weapons needed by the Armed Forces has begun in our Islamic country. The situation is good. He said: The objective of the arms industries is self-sufficiency. Following a successful test firing of a missile manufactured by the Construction Jihad Ministry—a missile with a range of 120 km—the IRGC Ministry also successfully test fired a missile with a range of 160 km. The missile will soon be mass produced.

Rafiqdust pointed out: Research into manufacturing various types of missiles and other strategic weapons is still being pursued by our arms industries. We hope to inform the Iranian warrior nation of further successes in reaching self-sufficiency in advanced weapons production.

WIH Refutes Iraqi Claims of Shelling Suburb

LD3107132788 Tehran IRNA in English 1246 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 31, OANA/IRNA—A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) today categorically refuted an Iraqi claim that Iranian forces had shelled "Bimalak" [placename as received], a suburb of Qal'at Dizah town in northeastern Iraq.

The spokesman, describing the claim as "unfounded", said the Ba'thist regime ruling Iraqi by raising such claims is trying to whitewash its criminal chemical bombing of 11 villages in northwestern Iran over the past two days.

Iran's Muslim combatants have displayed utmost self-restraint towards the continued Iraqi acts of mischief over the past few months, he said.

He also called on international organizations to fulfil their duty and prevent the Iraqi regime from continuing its artillery and chemical attacks on Iran's residential areas.

The spokesman, saying that the patience of Iran's Muslim combatants is not unlimited, cautioned that silence of international organizations on Baghdad's crimes will only encourage the Ba'thist regime to continue its acts of mischief.

Allegation Termed 'Lie'

LD0108083388 Tehran IRNA in English 0806 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA—A spokesman for the General Command Headquarters today denied Iraqi claims that Iran had shelled "Bimalak" civilian township in Iraq's Qal'at Dizah Saturday.

The spokesman termed the allegation as mere lie and described it as a justification of the recent Iraqi aggressions upon Iran.

Shamkhani Says 4,800 Mojahedin Killed in Marsad

LD0108130688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Mr Shamkhani, operations and intelligence deputy of the General Command Headquarters [title as heard], has described the outcome of the resistance and successful tactics of the forces of Islam against the joint conspiracy of the aggressor Iraqi Army and the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq] in the western operational theater.

He said: World arrogance, hypocrites, and the Ba'thist regime of Iraq, in an unholy triangle, attempted to overthrow the Islamic Republic system. In the plot, the aggressor Iraqi forces intended first of all to enter our Islamic homeland to capture a number of towns on the southern fronts so that Iran would concentrate its forces there.

Based on a planned operation, the deviant hypocrites would then quickly move toward Tehran from another front and declare the establishment of a popular democratic government [hokumat-e democratic-e khalq]. Eastern and Western arrogant powers were ready to assist them in every way.

He added: The hypocrites, those arrogant mercenaries, aided by the aggressor Ba'thist Iraqi army, entered Iranian soil in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area on the assumption that Iran's acceptance of Resolution No 598 and its political and economic situation would assist them in this cursed plan. After crossing the Pataq pass, they advanced toward the town of Kerend.

He added: Iran's acceptance of Resolution No 598 led the simple-minded hypocrites into a situation where the innocent martyrs—like the 72—were avenged. [sentence as heard]

He added: The General Command Hq received extensive intelligence reports on this plot. With a well-organized plan, the Islamic fighters confronted the diversionary attacks by the Ba'thist Iraqi Army in the south and totally destroyed the hypocrites in the west of the country.

Shamkhani said: Having given the 7000-strong hypocrites forces, who were equipped with all kinds of weapons by the Iraq forces, some leeway, the forces of Islam trapped them after they passed through Eslamabad-e Gharb. In 48 hours, they killed 4,800 hypocrites who were well equipped with weapons from the superpowers. Some of them escaped into nearby villages, but were later captured by local people and handed over to the forces of Islam.

He noted: Hoping that on their way to Tehran they would be supported by the people, the blind-hearted hypocrites entered Islamic Iran. In the first stages of their entry into Eslamabad and Kerend, the hypocrites were confronted with a crushing response from the heroic Iranian border dwellers.

Shamkhani concluded: In operation Marsad, 120 tanks; 400 personnel carriers; 90 80mm mortar-launchers; 30 120mm guns; 150 40mm mortars; 1000 RPG's; 700 AK47's; 30 106mm guns; and 1000 trucks and vehicles were placed at the disposal of the hypocrites by the Ba'thist Iraqi regime. All their equipment and 4,800 soldiers were destroyed by the forces of Islam in 48 hours.

Also, quantities of military equipment, inter-organizational documents, photographs, passports, (?water coolers), complete maps of Iranian towns, cyanide pills, and other military equipment were captured intact by the fighters of Islam.

More Volunteer Forces Depart for Fronts

LD0108152488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] In continuation of the extensive presence of our people at the war fronts and in reply to calls by the General Command Headquarters, this morning a large number of mobilization forces, recall forces, government employees, Friday prayer leaders, specialist and technical personnel from throughout the country, were dispatched to the warfronts against the enemies of islam.

Dispatch of 'Thousands'

LD0108174788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Summary] The departure of fresh volunteer forces for the battlefronts continued today with the dispatch of thousands of popular volunteer forces from various parts of the country.

According to reports from Central News Unit correspondents, volunteers from Tehran, Shiraz, Mamasani, Nehriz, Darab, Abadeh, Kazerun, Farrashband, Zarqan, Kherameh, (Kavval), Rasht, Bandar-e Anzali, Langrud, Lahijan, Rudsar, Sowma'eh Sara, Fowman, Astara, Talesh, Masal-e Shaterman, Sanandaj, Marivan, Bijar, Kashapn, Ardabil, Khal Khal, Meshgin Shahr, ('Idehsuar), (Tassabad), Garmi, Neyshabur, Sarakhs, Torbat-e Jam, Fariman, (Oshroyeh), (Damqan), and Garmsar left for the battlefronts today.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

4 Iraqi Ships 'Checked'

LD3107170088 Tehran IRNA in English 1656 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA—Iranian naval forces checked activities of four Iraqi vessels near Al-Bakr platform, and kept tight control of Khawr 'Abdallah waters including Umm Qasr port on Saturday and Sunday.

Meanwhile, Iran's Air Force planes reconnoitered some five foreign warships and 40 tankers, cargo ships and boats during their patrol flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman in the same period.

40 Wounded in Shelling

LD3007102188 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., July 30, IRNA—Forty civilians were wounded in Friday night Iraqi shelling of 10 villages in the vicinity of Sar Dasht, in Iran's northwestern border region. Several houses as well as farms were damaged in this attack.

In the past few days the Iraqi regime has shelled villages near Sar Dasht with long-range artillery martyring six villagers and wounding 17 others and causing damages.

Peshmerga Kill Over 40 Iraqis

LD3007185188 Tehran IRNA in English 1659 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, July 30, IRNA—Over 40 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded when battalion headquarters and some bases of enemy forces in Hert [placename as received] region, suburb of Irbil Province were destroyed by Iraqi Kurdish peshmergas over the past few days.

The Hezbollah (Party of God) peshmergas also killed and injured over 45 Iraqi soldiers during five ambushes in Birsawa-Surkeh [placename as received] axis, near Mirgah Sur (north of Irbil Province) in the said period. Some vehicles were also destroyed in the operations.

Attacks in Mehran Repelled

LD3107090188 Tehran IRNA in English 0838 GMT 31 Jul 88

[All placenames as received]

[Text] Ilam, Western Iran, July 31, IRNA—Muslim combatants of Iran including local tribesmen repelled an Iraqi offensive in the "Zee" [placename as received] region of the border town of Mehran Saturday night with the enemy troops sustaining heavy casualties and being forced to retreat.

Iraqi forces intended to take over important heights in Malek Shahi region in the area at dawn on Saturday but were faced with the brave resistance of Muslim combatants and local tribesmen who repelled them from 40 sq kms of Iranian territory including the heights of Gardel [placename as received], Torshab, Ma'ref [placename as received] and Zee.

Clashes still continued in the Ban Rahman region of Mehran, according to latest reports.

Iraqi Planes Bomb Marivan Area

LD0108141488 Tehran IRNA in English 1405 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., Aug. 1, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes bombed six villages on the outskirts of Marivan town in this northwestern province twice Sunday evening, causing no casualties but inflicting heavy damage to property.

Several domestic animals were killed and heavy losses inflicted on farm lands in the enemy bombings which took place at 17:30 and 17:45 hours local time (14:00 and 14:15 GMT).

Iraqi Commando Assault Crushed

LD0108185188 Tehran IRNA in English 1844 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants smashed an assault launched by commando forces of Iraq's 5th Corps on the northwestern heights early Monday, killing and wounding hundreds of enemy troops and capturing 16 others.

Announcing the above here today, the General Command Headquarters of the Armed Forces said that personnel of Badr Corps 9, comprising Iraqi muhajidin, killed 50 Ba'thist soldiers in clashes in Hawr al-Hawizah, southern sector, Monday.

Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization Members Executed
LD0108101288 Tehran IRNA in English 0949 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, Aug. 1, IRNA—Seven counterrevolutionaries, members of the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation (MKO) who had collaborated with the invading MKO members in their recent attack on the city, were hung in public here Monday morning. Those who had gathered at the scene were chanting slogan of "Death to monefeqin."

Meanwhile in the past 24 hours three MKO members were killed outside the city of Eslamabad-e Gharb and nearby villages in clashes with the Muslim forces of Iran.

So far a number of MKO members have been arrested and search continues to arrest remaining MKO members.

Members of the MKO in collaboration with Baghdad Army attacked the city last week but were repulsed by Iranian forces.

Tudeh Party Issues Statement on Executions
LD3107111488 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] The Tudeh Party of Iran Central Committee has issued a statement on the occasion of the new wave of executions of political prisoners by the criminal regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Here is its full text:

Statement of the Tudeh Party of Iran Central Committee:

Fellow countrymen, following ideological, political, social, economic, cultural, and particularly military defeats in the continuation of its expansionist policies which have resulted in the death, maiming, capture, and destitution of millions of Iranians and the destruction of towns and villages and production centers and endless economic loss, the Islamic Republic regime has become like an injured snake. To justify its crimes, it has embarked on other crimes, in particular its blatantly terrorizing of political prisoners.

According to a reliable news source, on 20 July Comrades (Kiumars Zarshenas), member of the Tudeh Party of Iran Central Committee and the (?then) first secretary of the Tudeh Party of Iran Youth Organization; (Simin Fardin) and (Sa'id Azarang), both outstanding and self-sacrificing members of the party; and Comrade (Faramarz Sufi), one of the members of the Feda'i-ye Khalq have been executed by firing squad.

Fifty-five political prisoners who have received the death sentence have also been transferred to solitary confinement. The sentences are to be carried out.

Comrades (Zarshenas), (Fardin), (Azarang), and (Sufi) welcomed death with high morale, heads held high, and faithful to their lofty revolutionary convictions. The Tudeh Party of Iran Central Committee strongly condemns these horrible crimes and offers condolences to their survivors and all the supporters of the party and the organization.

The renewed wave of executions and excessive pressures on political prisoners, whose only sin is defending the country's freedom, independence, and struggle for social justice, has tangible reasons. The regime intends to intimidate the people, those who rightly demand the punishment of the guilty criminals who rule the country. These rulers have killed hundreds of thousands of people and have brought about irreparable economic losses.

At the same time, the regime, which is flirting with the imperialist countries and recently with the Reagan administration, intends to attract their confidence specifically by sacrificing the members of the Tudeh Party and the Feda'i-ye Khalq.

To silence the protesting voices of the people, the ruling criminals daily increase their pressure and suppression. They do not hesitate to use the worst and most inhuman fascist methods to prolong their own existence.

We must regard this warning very seriously. We must embark on continued and organized efforts to confront the rule of the criminals. We must do this in order to save the lives of those political prisoners who were the main torch bearers of the February 1979 revolution.

We ask the party cells to publish party statements and formulate plans to expose the recent regime's crimes by maintaining the rules of underground activities.

We ask all the families of the political prisoners to embark on protest demonstrations in order to seek the people's sympathy to save the lives of their imprisoned dear ones.

The Tudeh Party of Iran Central Committee asks all patriotic, humane, and freedom-seeking Iranians, as well as all political organizations, to use all their resources in order to organize a vast, worldwide campaign against the freedom-killing criminal regime.

We specifically ask the supporters of the party in various countries to participate in this campaign with all their strength. We must hold protest demonstrations with the participation of progressive forces in all countries; organize hunger strikes, statements, and other initiatives which expose the crimes; write letters to world forums individually or collectively; prepare cases to defend political prisoners, particularly those under the threat of death and collect signatures from political-social personalities; [words indistinct] for embassies and consulates of the Islamic Republic in all countries; and also write articles on the regime's crimes to send to various publications.

We must thus embark on an untiring and extensive effort to save the lives of those on the threshold of execution and indeed for the freedom of all political prisoners. The more extensive and intensive the campaign, the more the Islamic Republic regime will find itself forced to retreat.

The Tudeh Party of Iran Central Committee extends its hand to all freedom seekers and humane people of the world and to all those who value life. It asks them to act decisively to save the freethinking people who are in prison for opposing the inhumane policy of the Islamic Republic and who are in danger of death.

We hope that timely action by these forces, whether at home or in the international arena, will stop the wave of executions and inhuman pressures on political prisoners.

[Signed] Tudeh Party of Iran Central Committee, 26 July 1988

Nepal

Border Talks With PRC Open in Kathmandu

BK0208011488 Hong Kong AFP in English 2337 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 1 (AFP)—Members of the Sino-Nepalese Joint Border Committee met here on Monday to discuss a draft boundary report after an on-the-spot inspection along Nepal's northern frontier, Foreign Ministry sources said.

This was the first committee meeting for nearly ten years since the last border agreement signed to scientifically delineate the 1,414-kilometer frontier between Nepal and Tibet, official sources said.

The current meeting was to approve the draft report prepared by joint border inspection teams in June, the official sources said.

The countries' foreign ministers are to sign the document in Beijing later this year concerning realignment of parts of the border, the sources said.

The main border areas of concern lie along Nepal's Humla Karnali District 390 kilometers northwest of here and the frontier of Kodari Pass 114 kilometers northeast of here, they said.

International boundary pillars and border lines in these areas have been destroyed by floods and landslides, official sources said.

The 11-member Chinese team is headed by Xu Guangjian, a senior official of the International Treaty and Law Department of China's Foreign Ministry.

The Nepalese team, which also has 11 members, is led by Arjun Bahadur Basnyet, senior survey advisor of the Ministry of Land Reform and Management.

Pakistan

Yaqub Khan Meets Iran's Velayati in New York

BK0208043488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] At their meeting in New York, the foreign ministers of Pakistan and Iran have exchanged views on the Gulf, the Afghanistan situation, and bilateral relations.

Officials say that Akbar Velayati apprised Yaqub Khan of the negotiations, now being held under the aegis of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, to bring an end to the 8-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

Pakistan's foreign minister appreciated the statesmanly step taken by the Iranian leadership in accepting the UNSC cease-fire resolution. He directed the Pakistani mission at the United Nations to work in close cooperation with the concerned delegations to ensure a settlement of this problem so that peace can be established in the entire region.

The Iranian foreign minister thanked President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Sahabzada Yaqub Khan for the role Pakistan has played during the Gulf crisis.

Pakistan's foreign minister informed Velayati of the current situation in Afghanistan and reiterated Islamabad's firm commitment to the Geneva accords.

During an exchange of views on the future government in Afghanistan, the two foreign ministers agreed that the formation of the government was a matter to be decided solely by the Afghan people without any outside interference and in accordance with their aspirations.

Regarding bilateral relations, the Iranian foreign minister said he is looking forward to a visit by his Pakistani counterpart to Tehran.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left for London yesterday on his way to Moscow for talks with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, and other Soviet officials. Officials say that the talks will focus on Afghanistan, Pakistan-Soviet relations, and the regional situation.

Minister on New Legislation on Elections

BK0108155988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] The federal minister for justice and parliamentary affairs, Mr Wasim Sajjad, has said that the new election legislation regarding the next general elections will be in accordance with the Supreme Court verdict on the Constitution and Political Parties Act.

Talking to an ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN correspondent in Islamabad today, he said the legislation will help in holding elections in a peaceful, just, and free manner. He expressed the hope that the new legislation will be ready by the end of next month.

The justice minister said this new legislation will fix the role of political parties in the nonparty elections. He made it clear that the Constitution has already clarified about the eligibility or noneligibility of candidates. The government is considering whether further legislation is required in this connection because the real aim is to hold the next elections in a fair manner.

He clarified that politicians and political workers can contest the election in individual capacity. He reiterated that the government has no intention to impose ban on political parties.

Bombers Get Death Sentence for Peshawar Attacks

BK0108093488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0925 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 1 (AFP)—Two Pakistanis have been sentenced to death for a bombing campaign in Peshawar, near Afghanistan, in which seven people died and 59 were wounded, newspapers reported Monday. The two were found guilty Sunday by a special court in Peshawar set up to try cases of terrorism, the reports said.

Alam Zeb and Abdul Matin received a total of 12 death sentences and 42 of life imprisonment for a variety of charges ranging from disrupting peace and tranquility to possession of explosives, destruction of property and murder. They were found guilty of planting five bombs in Peshawar in the past few months at places including airlines offices and bus stops, the reports said.

The Peshawar area is home to many Afghan refugees and resistance groups.

Observers said the sentences appeared intended to quell a wave of bombing across Pakistan since July last year in which more than 600 people have died. The Pakistani authorities have accused the Kabul regime of instigating the subversion in retaliation for Islamabad's help to the Afghan resistance.

Fokker F-27 Inducted Into Navy's Air Wing

BK3107093488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] At a ceremony in Karachi yesterday, one more Fokker F-27 aircraft was inducted into the air wing of the Pakistan Navy. The commander of Pakistan Fleet, Rear Admiral Manzurl Haq, was the chief guest.

The aircraft is equipped with sophisticated avionics for the surveillance of Pakistan's sea territory and coastal areas.

Sri Lanka

Troops Enforce 'Maximum Security' in Colombo

BK2907124488 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1141 GMT 29 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 29 July (LANKAPUVATH)—The situation was reported as quiet today in Colombo and the provinces, but for a few isolated incidents in the rural areas, with the security forces taking stern action against saboteurs, killing three and arresting the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] leader at Karandeniya. One of the terrorists killed was wanted for several political murders.

The security forces are in full control of the Southern Province where a curfew is now in force.

One soldier, Private B.H.S. Ananda of the First Gemunu Watch who had been commended for bravery in the battle against LTTE terrorists at Vadamarachchi in Jaffna in June last year, was killed this morning when southern terrorists fired at an Army patrol at Agunakolapellssa. His home is at Wasanagama, Athiliwewa in Wellawaya.

Security sources said it was ironic that a loyal son of the south who successfully fought northern terrorists should be killed by his kinsmen in the south.

Two terrorists were shot dead this morning in separate incidents at Weraketiya and Beliatte while they were in the act of committing sabotage.

Two shotguns were also recovered from the dead terrorists.

A third terrorist was killed by security forces at Matale when about 75 of them attacked close relatives of the deputy minister of omnibus transport, P.B. Kaviratne.

Security sources said this terrorist was wanted for several political murders.

They said that the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) leader at Karandeniya, in the Southern Province, has been arrested.

No incidents, however, were reported in Colombo.

Government establishments, banks and mercantile firms functioned normally today.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Transport said the railway and Sri Lanka Transport Board services were operating at full strength and people commuted to their places of work and returned to their homes without any inconvenience.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Private Omnibus Transport said that 70 per cent of the fleet of private buses were plying on the roads by noon today.

Maximum security is now in force in Colombo and several other areas with the police and security forces mounting a combined operation to maintain law and order in the country.

A curfew was imposed in the Galle, Matara and Hambantota districts at 0600 hours (local time) this morning and ends at 0600 hours (local time) tomorrow, (Saturday).

Alert Continues

BK3007062688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0603 GMT 30 Jul 88

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Excerpt] Colombo, July 30 (AFP)—Heavily-armed security forces backed by a curfew patrolled southern Sri Lanka Saturday [30 July], a day after 15 people died in sporadic violence on the first anniversary of an Indo-Sri Lankan peace pact, officials said.

Some 70 violent incidents were reported from throughout the island Friday, a military spokesman here said. He could not immediately give details.

However, defence sources said two soldiers and a policeman were among those killed Friday, the first anniversary of the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

A soldier and the policeman were killed in clashes with anti-government Sinhalese militants in southern province while the other soldier and a civilian died when ambushed by Tamil guerrillas in northeastern Trincomalee town, the sources said.

Security forces shot dead six activists of the Sinhalese militant group, the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP or People's Liberation Front), when they were either attacking government property or trying to set up roadblocks in the south, the sources said.

They said four JVP saboteurs were killed by police in central Matale and northwestern Kurunegala districts while a fifth died when a bomb he was carrying exploded prematurely.

Most shops and offices remained closed for the second straight day Saturday fearing militant reprisals, residents said. "We are closed not because we sympathise with the JVP. We don't mind losing a day's business rather than get hit tomorrow," a Colombo businessman said.

The sporadic violence came despite a maximum alert by security forces and police backed by helicopters and armed with orders to use maximum force against troublemakers.

The curfew first imposed Friday morning in southern Hambantota, Matara and Galle districts will continue till Sunday morning, officials said. [passage omitted]

Curfew Reimposed

BK3107115988 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1025 GMT 31 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, July 31 (LANKAPUVATH)—Police reported the situation as being very calm and quiet today in all areas, including the Southern Province with shops and markets open and train and bus services normal.

At midnight yesterday at Athakotte, Elpitiya in the Galle District, one terrorist of a gang of five was captured and two shotguns, kris knives and iron rods which they were carrying were recovered.

The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) leader of Tissamaharama in the Hambantota District was also killed yesterday by the security forces.

Security sources said that heavy patrolling by the police and the security forces were continuing particularly in the Southern Province.

The curfew in the Southern Province districts of Galle, Matara and Hambantota, which ended at 0600 hours (local time) this morning will be reimposed at 1900 hours (local time) tonight as a precautionary measure and lifted at 0400 hours (local time) tomorrow (August 01).

Security sources told LANKAPUVATH that two southern terrorists were killed in a confrontation with the security forces.

In another incident yesterday over 300 inmates of the Negombo prison refused to be coerced by 60 Southern terrorist detainees into joining a black flag demonstration in the prison.

In a clash that followed, one terrorist suspect and a prisoner of the opposing faction were killed and 11 others injured.

The situation was brought under control after about 20 minutes by prison authorities and the police.

Commissioner of Prisons H.G. Dharamadasa told LANKAPUVATH he was conducting a full inquiry into the incident.

5 Sinhalese 'Massacred' in Ampara by LTTE

BK0208083888 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0807 GMT 2 Aug 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 2 Aug (LANKAPUVATH)—LTTE terrorists massacred a Sinhalese family of five in the farming village of Sagama at Akkaraipattu in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province district of Ampara, in the (?early) hours of this morning.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH the victims were a businessman Edmund Silva, his wife, son, mother and a (?friend). They had been hacked to death.

This was the second massacre of Sinhalese by LTTE terrorists in eastern Sri Lanka during the last five days. On July 28, LTTE terrorists killed 16 Sinhalese in a re-settled farming village at Weli-Oya when they were gathering firewood in a jungle.

Reportage on IPKF Operations Against LTTE

5 LTTE Men Killed

BK0208034488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, five LTTE militants have been killed in an operation by the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] in the Trincomalee area.

A PKF spokesman told our correspondent in Madras that an LTTE hideout in Punkudutivu area on the Jaffna coast was raided yesterday and all the members of an important group were arrested. The group was responsible for various mine blasts.

In Vellankulam area, a PKF patrol party surprised some militants who were busy laying booby traps. The militants fled away leaving behind some explosives and electric wires.

6 Killed, 60 Captured

BK2907125088 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1145 GMT 29 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 29 July (LANKAPUVATH)—Six terrorists were killed, five injured and sixty (60) apprehended by the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] in a series of operations conducted by Indian troops in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern provinces.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that at Meyankolla in the Ampara-Batticaloa sector, the IPKF located and destroyed a LTTE camp last Tuesday. Radio intercepts later revealed that 2 terrorists had been killed and 4 wounded in the encounter.

A radio intercept also confirmed that one terrorist was killed in a confrontation with Indian troops last Tuesday at Vaddakachchi in the Jaffna sector.

Another report from Jaffna states that 2 terrorists were killed and one other wounded in a clash with the IPKF at Dharmapuram.

Indian troops also recovered 2 Pentolite boosters each weighing 250 kilograms from a dead terrorist. The boosters are used in the setting off of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED).

The sources further said that 18 terrorists were apprehended from an area 4 kilometres southeast of Batticaloa and 2 captured at Kalmunai.

One 85 mm mortar in their possession, was seized.

One hardcore terrorist, Theevan, captured in Vakarai and one other codenamed "Soddy" were taken into custody at Thirukkovil.

A report from the Trincomalee sector states the IPKF apprehended 4 terrorists in Thiriyaya and one other at Pankulam.

10 terrorists were apprehended from an area 4 kilometres northwest of Muttur and 2 more were apprehended in Trincomalee.

20 terrorists were apprehended in Nakarkovil and one hardcore terrorist, codenamed "Singapore" was captured from an area 3 kilometres southeast of Pallai.

1 Killed, 11 Captured

BK3007131088 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1219 GMT 30 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 30 July (LANKAPUVATH)—One LTTE terrorist was killed, eleven apprehended and more weapons seized by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in operations conducted in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, yesterday.

A Sri Lankan soldier and the civilian driver of his vehicle were also killed by terrorists at Trincomalee.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that in a confrontation with the IPKF, one LTTE terrorist was killed, one seriously wounded and one other captured at Adankulam in the Mannar District.

In the Jaffna sector, six terrorists, Prabhakaran alias Niyas of the Sudan gang, Siva alias Shankar of the Akash gang, Gyanaratnam alias Senamudhil of the Johnny gang and Ganesh, Lingam and Bonotha were captured by the IPKF in Kokuvil and Kankesanthurai.

A report from north of Mamaduwa in the Wanni sector states, around 10 to 12 terrorists had attacked five huts with grenades and guns. Two men and five women were injured. The injured were treated by the IPKF at Vavuniya and then moved to the Anuradhapura hospital.

A Sri Lanka Transport Board bus carrying meals for soldiers was ambushed by terrorists at Palampattaru bridge in Trincomalee. One Sri Lankan soldier and the civilian driver were killed. One T-56 rifle, four magazines with 120 rounds of 07.62 ammunition and two grenades were lost.

In Kallady, in the Ampara-Batticaloa sector, Pillai Kanakasabai was abducted by four unidentified armed terrorists, Thursday. The following morning, Kanakasabai's body was found lying on the Kallady Road with gun shot injuries. The deceased was accused of being an informant of the IPKF.

In Skandapuram in Jaffna, an IPKF patrol was fired at by terrorists. One officer was wounded.

In IPKF search operations conducted at Trincomalee, 279 ampules of medicines and 32 types of life saving drugs were seized at Pankulam. In Kuchchaweli, one Improvised Explosive Device (IED), two hand grenades and one claymore mine were recovered.

One Indian soldier was injured in a clash with the terrorists in the same area.

Two suspects—Madikumar and Jayakumaran—were apprehended 2 kilometres southeast of Batticaloa. Two rifle magazines, two radio aerials and one 35 hp OBM [outboard motor] were seized west of Sampur.

A report from Vavuniya states [that] two LTTE terrorists, Sundaram and Mahalingam, were apprehended by the IPKF during a search operation. Six hand grenades and two rifle magazines were also recovered in the area.

Official sources said that two hand grenades were seized in Uduppiddi and an IED was prematurely activated against an IPKF patrol by terrorists in Achchuweli in the Jaffna sector.

They said that terrorists fired at the IPKF post at Nawathkadu in Jaffna.

Four terrorists had fired at Sirimangalapura village post in the Trincomalee sector. One homeguard was injured.